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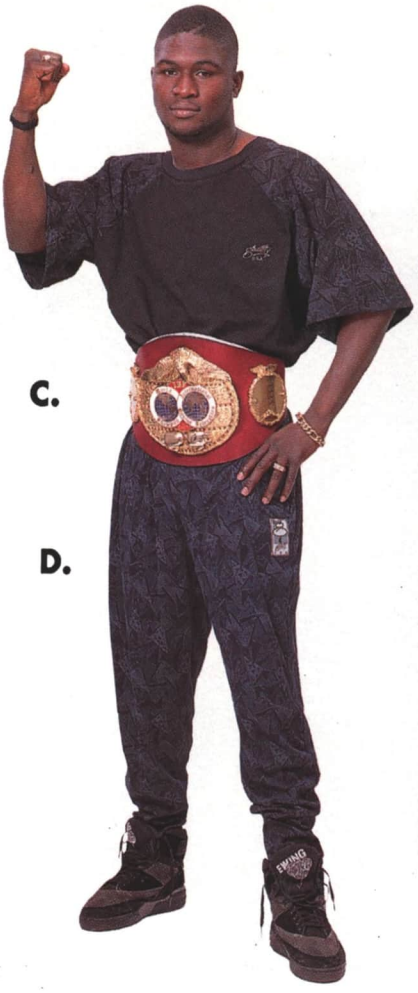

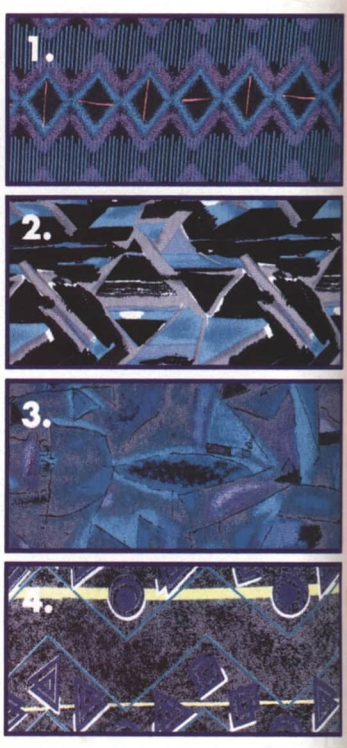

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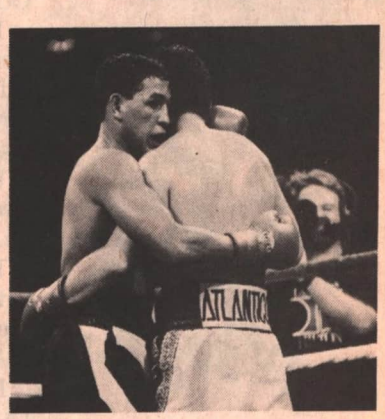

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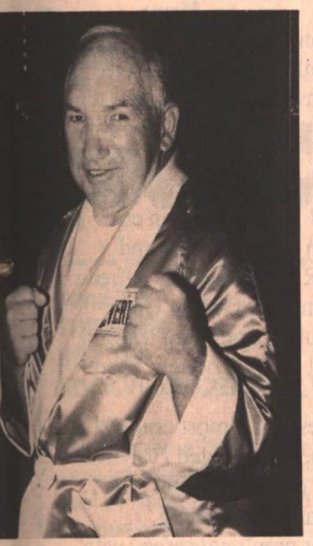

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Ringside

It always angers me when a ringworn gym rat—let's say someone old enough to remember Marciano-LaStarza II—knocks today's fight game.

"Ya know," he'll state assuredly, "in the old days, this Azumah Nelson fella wouldn't have made the *top 10.*"

Tempting as it may be, I generally don't debate the point. Arguing with such deep thinkers is like hitting a speedbag; the harder you strike, the quicker it's back in your face. Instead, I usually settle for a quick exit line, something like, "Isn't it about time to buy a new Timex? I see that yours stopped in *1954.*"

At age 35, I'm barely old enough to remember Ali-Liston II, much less Marciano-LaStarza II. But the following observation makes me fear that I'm turning into the very ringworn gym rat that I loathe: TODAY'S FIGHTERS AREN'T THAT GOOD.

This earth-shattering revelation came to me after I stumbled across the ratings from a decade ago. Ten years shouldn't be that long a time; hell, Saoul Mamby was old then, and he's old now. But what a difference in the championship roster! Compare 10 titlists from late-1982, listed in no particular order, with *The Ring's* current pound-for-pound listing:

10 Years Ago: Larry Holmes, Wilfredo Gomez, Sugar Ray Leonard, Jeff Chandler, Michael Spinks, Marvin Hagler, Alexis Arguello, Aaron Pryor, Wilfred Benitez, Eusebio Pedroza.

Today: Julio Cesar Chavez, Pernell Whitaker, Terry Norris, Evander Holyfield, Orlando Canizales, Buddy McGirt, Azumah Nelson, Julian Jackson, Sung Kil Moon, James Toney.

A total mismatch.

I realize that time and distance tend to alter our perception. For instance, in 1982, I wouldn't yet have rated Hagler among the best middleweights of all-time. Conversely, maybe in 2002, 10 years of perspective will have convinced me that Jackson belongs with the best in 160-pound history. But champion for champion, the difference in quality remains staggering.

The reason? Seems that today's best fighters don't fight each other. In the late-'70s and early-'80s, Leonard, Benitez, Thomas Hearns, and Roberto Duran engaged in an extraordinary round robin. Gomez kayoed both Carlos Zarate and Lupe Pintor, and tested Salvador Sanchez. Arguello faced Ruben Olivares, Alfredo Escalera, and Pryor. Spinks took on Eddie Mustafa Muhammad, Dwight Qawi, and Holmes. Hagler defended against Leonard, Hearns, Duran, and John Mugabi. And Holmes clashed with Ken Norton, Earnie Shavers, and Gerry Cooney. There weren't too many matchups that were missed.

On the other hand, today's titlists are missing key victories. It's almost criminal that Chavez and Whitaker haven't squared off. Circumstances prevented Holyfield from fighting Mike Tyson, but Canizales should at least try to partially unify the bantamweight title. The same goes for Jackson and Toney at middleweight.

I can't help but get the impression that today's champions aren't concerned with their place in history. Here's to hoping they begin to accept challenges worthy of their talents. Who knows, maybe my Timex will start ticking again.

Steve Farhood
Editor-In-Chief

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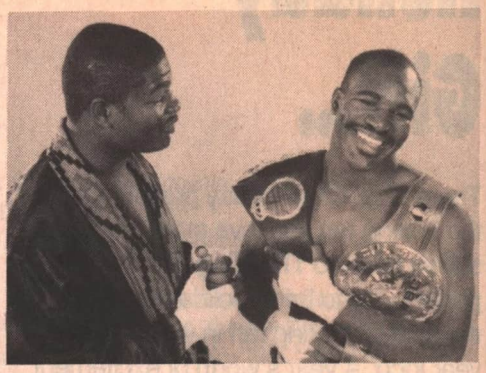
Come Out Writing

HOLYFIELD & BOWE



Bowe wants what Holyfield has

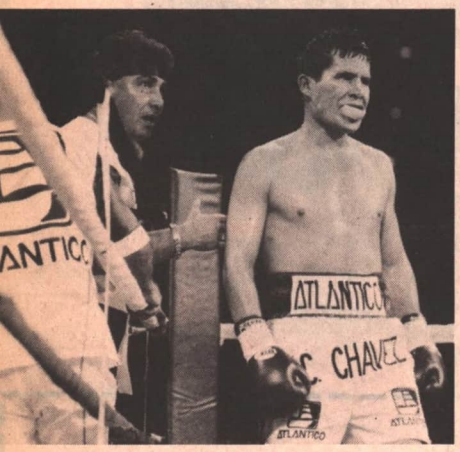
I have just read the cover story of your November 1992 issue ("Is Riddick Bowe The Next Heavyweight Champion?"), in which Bowe proclaims himself the next titlist. In the words of that immortal pugilist Popeye the Sailor, "That's all I can stands, and I can't stands no more!"

I am a *huge* Evander Holyfield fan, and I'll be the first to criticize his disappointing title reign. But the champion approaches every fight in a professional manner, his work ethic is unmatched, and he has brought respectability back to the heavyweight title. His defenses, to be kind, have been less than spectacular. But he just keeps on winning, no matter who the Bum Of The Month Club digs up.

Which brings me to Bowe. It would be nonsense to deny his enormous talent and potential, but what has he done to support his claims? Was it the kickboxing match with Elijah Tillery? Or maybe that soon-to-be-classic vs. Phil Brown? Perhaps it was the battle with Bruce Seldon, or the war with Bigfoot Martin. Or maybe Bowe's assumptions are based on his defeat of the ever-dangerous Conroy Nelson.

In reality, the only test Bowe ever faced was an over-the-hill Tony Tubbs, and he was lucky to escape with a decision win. Bowe talks the talk. Come November 13, we'll see if he can walk the walk.

DOUG BONADUCE
Valley Forge, PA



Chavez: Ready to walk through Whitaker?

CHAVEZ & WHITAKER

In "Chavez: Unbeaten At 80-0, But What If He Had To Fight The Legends?" (September 1992), frequent stumbler Steve Farhood must have been up late drinking when he fantasized and wrote that Pernell Whitaker would have outscored Chavez, with each fighting in his prime. Farhood wrote that "Chavez has never met anyone with Whitaker's class." You have it the wrong way, pal. It is *Whitaker* who has never met anyone with *Chavez'* class. In fact, Whitaker has no class at all, shoving the referee in the last round of his fight with Poli Diaz, and whining about a headbutt. I will never forget his first fight with Jose Luis Ramirez, where, in one of the later rounds, he actually clutched Ramirez' leg in a cowardly attempt to prevent him from continuing his attack.

Whitaker is gifted with speed and timing. But he is miserably short on guts, chin, and in-fighting ability. You guys never seem to differentiate between natural timing and learned skill and ability. Chavez has deep-rooted skills, boxing ability, and stamina. He also has a granite jaw and tremendous determination, unlike Whitaker, who starts looking at the clock as the rounds go by.

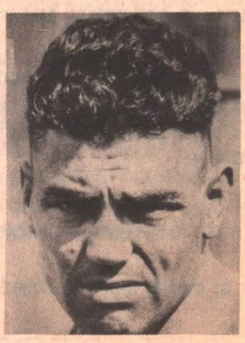
Whenever they meet, Chavez will walk right through Whitaker. It won't even be close.

JOHN KOERNER
Littlerock, CA

THE DEMPSEY DEBATE

It has long amazed me that Jack Dempsey is highly rated by boxing historians. I'm not anti-Dempsey; he was obviously a very colorful and popular boxer. But if the same criteria are applied to him as are applied to other champions (longevity, quality of opposition, etc.), he doesn't measure up to many of the great heavyweights. On a level playing field, Gene Tunney certainly deserves at least as high a rating.

MARTIN RYAN
Dublin, Ireland



Dempsey: The debate continues

Jack Dempsey defended against light heavyweights, but so did Joe Louis. And Jack Johnson won the title from Tommy Burns, who often fought at middleweight. Dempsey defended the title only six times, but he paid his dues by logging 79 official bouts.

If all of the great heavyweights were thrown together for a bare-knuckle free-for-all, you can be sure that Dempsey would be one of the few to walk away under his own power.

ROBERT M. FERGUSON
Fort Scott, KS ■

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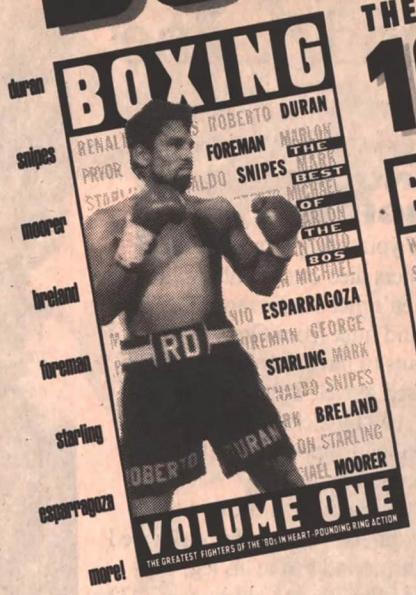

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Round One

BARE-KNUCKLEHEAD FIGHTER?

If you thought bare-knuckle fighters died out a century ago, you haven't met Joe Savage. The 265-pound hulk from Great Britain claims to have engaged in 41 unlicensed gloveless fights, and won them all by kicking, kneeing, and butting his opponents into submission.

"In one fight, I broke a guy's jaw, pulled out his ribs, dislocated his arm, and broke his leg," recalled the 29-year-old slugger. "The more damage you inflict on an opponent, the more money you get paid."

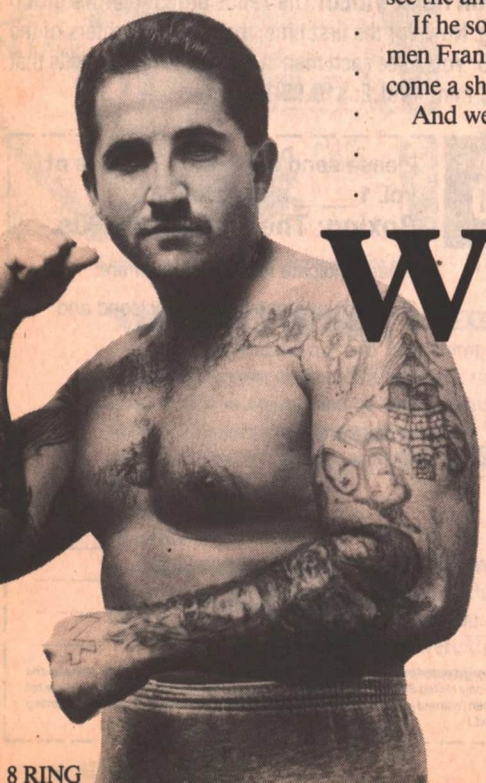
Savage, whose shaved head and myriad tattoos make him look like a cross between Curly of the Three Stooges and Ray Bradbury's Illustrated Man, told England's *Sunday Sport* that he'd like the chance to challenge his more legitimate boxing brethren. "It sickens me when I see the amount of cash they're picking up," he said.

If he somehow becomes licensed, Savage wants to fight countrymen Frank Bruno and Lennox Lewis. After that, of course, would come a shot at the world heavyweight title.

And we thought boxing was *already* in trouble.

Savage: Looking for a fight

Torres: Making his time work



WHEN BAD IS GOOD

For the past 14 years, Joey Torres, 32, has been serving a 25-year-to-life sentence for manslaughter at the Central New Mexico Correctional Facility. It has been time well-spent. Torres, a former amateur fighter, started BAD (Boxers Against Drugs). The program initially featured former champions Carlos Palomino, Ray Mancini, and Ken Norton, who spoke to teenagers in an effort to steer them away from drugs. Torres has since expanded; his roster now includes such sports stars as Emmitt Smith, Brian McRae, Kevin Mitchell, Eric Davis, Cecil Fielder, and Darryl Strawberry.

Torres' introduction to drugs came in a most unusual way. He says that between rounds of his fights, his handler would give him a shot of nasal spray.

"It always gave me a lift," he said. "I would get this shot of energy. I would feel good. But then it got to the point that I needed the spray all the time."

It was cocaine.

"The Joey Torreses keep coming," he said. "The names change, but I see myself in these kids. I finally got so tired of seeing it happen time and time again that I decided to try and do something."

Future gold medal winners?

NOVEMBER KNOCKOUTS

For those of you who are reluctant to buy the Holyfield-Bowe bout on pay-per-view, fearing an early kayo or an otherwise boring card, fear no longer. Platinum Productions has come to the rescue with its first annual Round Card Girl Olympics. The 80-minute show ($5.95) will air throughout November and, on many cable outlets, will immediately follow the fight.

The "Games" will feature 18 contestants, competing in such events as volleyball, relay sprints, tug of war, and the dreaded obstacle course, as well as equally taxing evening gown and bikini modeling contests. There will be a knockout cast of hosts, including round card girl extraordinaire and *Penthouse* Pet Leslie Glass, who is the head judge, the California calendar Barbi Twins, supermodel Cindy Margolis, and, er, cough, ring announcer Michael Buffer.

—Ed Maloney

Geoffrey Ewing as Ali

ALI: THE PLAY

Geoffrey Ewing's spiritual kinship with Muhammad Ali led him to write and star in the Off-Broadway hit *Ali*. Based on the life of the former heavyweight champion, the play draws on the life of a young Cassius Clay and his gold medal performance at the 1960 Olympics, his legendary battles with Joe Frazier, his relationship with sportscaster Howard Cosell, and the slow-moving, slow-speaking Ali of today, who still draws crowds.

The play opens with an aging Ali shaking hands with the audience. "I'm gonna get to y'all in a minute," he says slowly. "I'm talking about my life so much, I'm starting to believe it."

Ewing then becomes a young Ali, vivacious, humorous, and full of rhymes. He speaks of racism—"I was called the Olympic nigger"—and finds his boxing ancestors, Joe Louis and Sugar Ray Robinson, in the audience. He shadowboxes, hits the speedbag, and does an uncanny imitation of Cosell that brings down the house. Then it's the old Ali again, sitting in a chair and recounting his life.

"My interest started as a kid," Ewing said. "I was in junior high school when he was champion. I was an athlete; he was the epitome of *all* athletes. His religion was always the center of his life, and I always felt that I understood him."

Ewing, 41, researched his subject for eight months before penning the one-man play with Graydon Royce, an editor at the *Minneapolis Star Tribune*. For the boxing scenes, he was taught by former fighter Ron Lipton.

Ali's mother and brother attended a showing in Kentucky and told Ewing, "You're just like Ali." Yet to offer his criticism, however, is "The Greatest," who, according to Ewing, "has endorsed the play, but hasn't seen it."

—Arlene Schulman ■

OUTSIDE THE ROPES

Veteran New Jersey-based trainer and manager **Carmen Graziano** died of a heart attack at age 70. Among the fighters he worked with: **Joey Giardello, Mike Rossman, Carl "The Truth" Williams,** and **Bruce Seldon** . . . Popular trainer **Emile Griffith** remains hospitalized in New York City with a serious kidney ailment. According to **Gil Clancy**, who managed the former welterweight and middleweight champion, Griffith "felt a pain in his back and passed out." There has been conjecture that the 54-year-old Griffith may have been attacked from behind in a street beating.

The Ring Ratings

For Period Ended
September 15, 1992

How Our Ratings Are Compiled

In each division, fighters are ranked according to their abilities and accomplishments.

Being champion does not necessarily mean a fighter will be rated at the top of his weight class.

These ratings reflect how the best fighters in the world rate against one another.

Ratings By *The Ring* Editors
Records Compiled By Eric Armit

HEAVYWEIGHTS
Weight Unlimited

1 EVANDER HOLYFIELD
Atlanta, GA *28-0 (World Champ)*

2 RIDDICK BOWE
Fort Washington, MD *31-0*

3 RAZOR RUDDOCK
Canada *27-3-1*

4 MICHAEL MOORER
Detroit, MI *29-0*

5 TONY TUCKER
Beverly Hills, CA *46-1*

6 GEORGE FOREMAN
Marshall, TX *71-3*

7 LENNOX LEWIS
England *21-0*

8 RAY MERCER
Newark, NJ *18-1*

9 TOMMY MORRISON
Mariam, KS *33-1*

10 ALEX STEWART
Safety Harbor, FL *30-4*

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 160 pounds

1 JULIAN JACKSON
Virgin Islands *45-1 (WBC Champ)*

2 JAMES TONEY
Ann Arbor, MI *32-0-2 (IBF Champ)*

3 MIKE McCALLUM
Brooklyn, NY *43-2-1*

4 SUMBU KALAMBAY
Italy *54-5-1*

5 ROY JONES
Pensacola, FL *19-0*

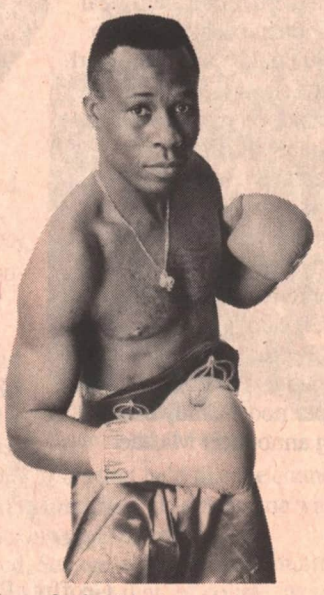
6 REGGIE JOHNSON
Houston, TX *31-2-1 (WBA Champ)*

7 LAMAR PARKS
Greeneville, SC *22-0*

8 GERALD McCLELLAN
Detroit, MI *25-2*

9 BERNARD HOPKINS
Philadelphia, PA *19-1*

10 STEVE COLLINS
Brockton, MA *21-2*



Sumbu Kalambay

JR. MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 154 pounds

1 TERRY NORRIS
Mission Valley, CA *32-3 (WBC Champ)*

2 GIANFRANCO ROSI
Italy *56-3 (IBF Champ)*

3 VINNY PAZIENZA
Cranston, RI *31-5 (WBA Champ)*

4 JOHN DAVID JACKSON
Seattle, WA *25-0*

5 VERNO PHILLIPS
New York, NY *17-5*

6 JULIO CESAR VASQUEZ
Argentina *38-1*

7 GILBERT DELE
France *33-2-1*

8 CARL DANIELS
St. Louis, MO *27-1*

9 AARON DAVIS
Bronx, NY *33-1*

10 SIMON BROWN
Germantown, MD *36-2*

FEATHERWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 126 pounds

1 PAUL HODKINSON
England *21-1-1 (WBC Champ)*

2 MANUEL MEDINA
Mexico *42-3 (IBF Champ)*

3 YUNG KYUN PARK
South Korea *22-1-1 (WBA Champ)*

4 KEVIN KELLEY
Flushing, NY *30-0*

5 COLIN McMILLAN
England *23-1*

6 JESSE JAMES LEIJA
San Antonio, TX *23-0-1*

7 TOM JOHNSON
Detroit, MI *29-2-1*

8 TROY DORSEY
Mansfield, TX *13-5-4*

9 LOUIE ESPINOZA
Phoenix, AZ *46-5-2*

10 EVER BELENO
Colombia *23-0*

JR. FEATHERWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 122 pounds

1 WELCOME NCITA
South Africa *31-0 (IBF Champ)*

2 TRACY PATTERSON
Highland, NY *45-2 (WBC Champ)*

3 JESSE BENAVIDES
Corpus Christi, TX *35-1-1*

4 WILFREDO VASQUEZ
Puerto Rico *34-6-3 (WBA Champ)*

5 KENNEDY McKINNEY
Las Vegas, NV *21-0-1*

6 JESUS SALUD
San Diego, CA *42-5*

7 RUDY ZAVALA
Rosemead, CA *17-1-1*

8 LUIS MENDOZA
Colombia *33-3-2*

9 THIERRY JACOB
France *38-4*

10 JULIO GERVACIO
Puerto Rico *23-3-2*

BANTAMWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 118 pounds

1 ORLANDO CANIZALES
Laredo, TX *32-1-1 (IBF Champ)*

2 EDDIE COOK
Las Vegas, NV *18-1 (WBA Champ)*

3 JOICHIRO TATSUYOSHI
Japan *7-0-1 (WBC Champ)*

4 JUNIOR JONES
Brooklyn, NY *24-0*

5 VICTOR RABANALES
Mexico *32-10-2 (Interim WBC Champ)*

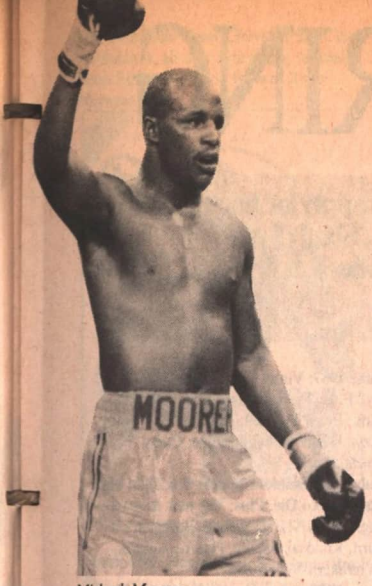
6 CECILIO ESPINO
Los Angeles, CA *23-2*

7 ISRAEL CONTRERAS
Venezuela *35-3-1*

8 ELIECER JULIO
Colombia *21-0*

9 JAVIER LEON
Mexico *37-5-2*

10 RAFAEL DEL VALLE
Puerto Rico *13-0*



Michael Moorer

CRUISERWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 195 pounds

1 **BOBBY CZYZ**
Montgomery, NJ *40-5 (WBA Champ)*

2 **ALFRED COLE**
Newark, NJ *21-1 (IBF Champ)*

3 **ANACLET WAMBA**
France *36-2 (WBC Champ)*

4 **ORLIN NORRIS**
Campo, CA *33-3*

5 **JEFF LAMPKIN**
Youngstown, OH *36-13-1*

6 **JAMES WARRING**
Miami, FL *14-2*

7 **NATE MILLER**
Philadelphia, PA *20-3*

8 **AKIM TAFER**
France *14-3*

9 **ARTHUR WILLIAMS**
Las Vegas, NV *17-1-1*

10 **ROBERT DANIELS**
Miami, FL *20-2-1*

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 175 pounds

1 **PRINCE CHARLES WILLIAMS**
Mansfield, OH *33-4-2 (IBF Champ)*

2 **THOMAS HEARNS**
Detroit, MI *50-4-1*

3 **VIRGIL HILL**
Bismarck, ND *32-1*

4 **FRANK TATE**
Houston, TX *31-2*

5 **JEFF HARDING**
Australia *22-1 (WBC Champ)*

6 **LEEONZER BARBER**
Detroit, MI *15-1*

7 **HENRY MASKE**
Germany *17-0*

8 **TIM HILLIE**
Washington, D.C. *15-0*

9 **SAUL MONTANA**
Mexico *17-2*

10 **RANDALL YONKER**
Mobile, AL *28-2*

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 168 pounds

1 **MICHAEL NUNN**
Davenport, IA *38-1 (WBA Champ)*

2 **IRAN BARKLEY**
Bronx, NY *29-7 (IBF Champ)*

3 **VICTOR CORDOBA**
N. Ireland *18-4-2*

4 **CHRIS EUBANK**
England *32-0*

5 **MAURO GALVANO**
Italy *21-1-2 (WBC Champ)*

6 **NIGEL BENN**
England *32-2*

7 **TIM LITTLES**
Flint, MI *19-0*

8 **DARRIN VAN HORN**
Lexington, KY *48-3*

9 **TONY THORNTON**
Glassboro, NJ *29-4-1*

10 **MERQUI SOSA**
New York, NY *20-2-1*

WELTERWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 147 pounds

1 **BUDDY McGIRT**
Hauppauge, NY *57-2-1 (WBC Champ)*

2 **MELDRICK TAYLOR**
Cheltenham, PA *29-2-1 (WBA Champ)*

3 **MAURICE BLOCKER**
Germantown, MD *34-2 (IBF Champ)*

4 **GENARO LEON**
Mexico *41-2-2*

5 **GLENWOOD BROWN**
Plainfield, NJ *36-3*

6 **YORI BOY CAMPAS**
Mexico *42-0*

7 **MANNING GALLOWAY**
Colombus, OH *48-11-1*

8 **CRISANTO ESPANA**
N. Ireland *27-0*

9 **LUDOVIC PROTO**
France *24-0*

10 **ANTHONY JONES**
Detroit, MI *31-3-1*

JR. WELTERWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 140 pounds

1 **JULIO CESAR CHAVEZ**
Mexico *82-0 (WBC Champ)*

2 **PERNELL WHITAKER**
Norfolk, VA *30-1 (IBF Champ)*

3 **TERRENCE ALLI**
Linden, NJ *50-7-2*

4 **CHARLES MURRAY**
Newark, NJ *26-1*

5 **MORRIS EAST**
Philippines *15-2 (WBA Champ)*

6 **RAFAEL PINEDA**
Colombia *28-2*

7 **GREG HAUGEN**
Henderson, NV *31-4-1*

8 **CARLOS GONZALEZ**
Mexico *33-0*

9 **AKINOBU HIRANAKA**
Japan *20-1*

10 **VINCENT PHILLIPS**
Las Vegas, NV *25-0*

LIGHTWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 135 pounds

1 **MIGUEL ANGEL GONZALEZ**
Mexico *25-0 (WBC Champ)*

2 **JOEY GAMACHE**
Lewiston, ME *28-0 (WBA Champ)*

3 **FREDDIE PENDLETON**
Miami, FL *32-17-4*

4 **JORGE PAEZ**
Mexico *43-4-4*

5 **TRACY SPANN**
Plainfield, NJ *27-1-1*

6 **DARRYLL TYSON**
Washington, D.C. *39-4*

7 **SHARMBA MITCHELL**
Takoma Park, MD *28-0*

8 **TONY LOPEZ**
Sacramento, CA *40-3-1*

9 **JEAN-BAPTISTE MENDY**
France *41-4-2*

10 **FRANKIE MITCHELL**
Philadelphia, PA *29-2*

JR. LIGHTWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 130 pounds

1 **AZUMAH NELSON**
Ghana *34-2-1 (WBC Champ)*

2 **GENARO HERNANDEZ**
Los Angeles, CA *26-0 (WBA Champ)*

3 **JOHN-JOHN MOLINA**
Puerto Rico *27-3 (IBF Champ)*

4 **JEFF FENECH**
Australia *26-1-1*

5 **BERNARD TAYLOR**
Knoxville, TN *44-2-2*

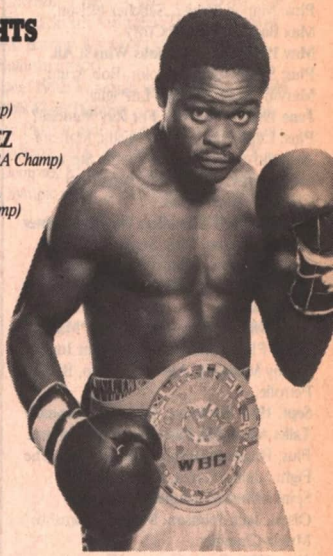
6 **GABE RUELAS**
Arleta, CA *32-1*

7 **CALVIN GROVE**
Philadelphia, PA *41-4*

8 **REGILIO TUUR**
Whitestone, NY *29-2-1*

9 **JORGE RAMIREZ**
Mexico *62-7-3*

10 **YUJI WATANABE**
Japan *10-0*



Azumah Nelson

JR. BANTAMWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 115 pounds

1 **SUNG KIL MOON**
South Korea *17-1 (WBC Champ)*

2 **ROBERT QUIROGA**
San Antonio, TX *20-0 (IBF Champ)*

3 **KATSUYA ONIZUKA**
Japan *19-0 (WBA Champ)*

4 **THALERNGSAK SITHBAOBAY**
Thailand *38-3*

5 **ARMANDO CASTRO**
Mexico *47-8-1*

6 **GREG RICHARDSON**
Youngstown, OH *29-4*

7 **VINCENZO BELCASTRO**
Italy *22-5-3*

8 **JOHNNY BREDAHL**
Denmark *15-0*

9 **GERRY PENALOSA**
Philippines *20-0-1*

10 **JOSE RUIZ**
Puerto Rico *22-3*

FLYWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 112 pounds

1 **YURI ARBACHAKOV**
Japan *13-0 (WBC Champ)*

2 **RODOLFO BLANCO**
Colombia *26-6-1 (IBF Champ)*

3 **YONG KANG KIM**
South Korea *25-3 (WBA Champ)*

4 **DAVE McAULEY**
Ireland *18-3-2*

5 **SCOTTY OLSON**
Las Vegas, NV *23-0*

6 **MUANGCHAI KITTIKASEM**
Thailand *18-2*

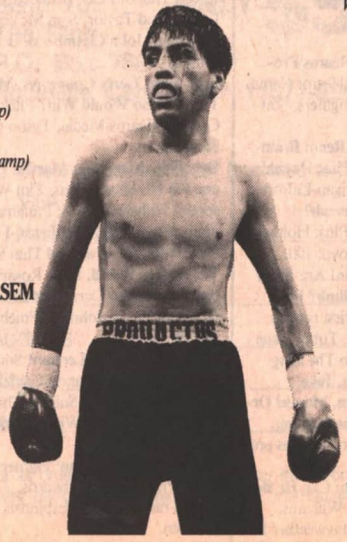
7 **YUN UN CHIN**
South Korea *27-0*

8 **YSAIAS ZAMUDIO**
Blythe, CA *29-3-1*

9 **AL KOTEY**
Philadelphia, PA *16-0*

10 **PAT CLINTON**
Scotland *19-1*

Humberto Gonzalez



JUNIOR FLYWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 108 pounds

1 **HIROKI IOKA**
Japan *21-2-1 (WBA Champ)*

2 **MICHAEL CARBAJAL**
Phoenix, AZ *24-0 (IBF Champ)*

3 **HUMBERTO GONZALEZ**
Mexico *34-1 (WBC Champ)*

4 **MYUNG WOO YUH**
South Korea *36-1*

5 **MELCHOR COB CASTRO**
Mexico *33-3-3*

6 **LEON SALAZAR**
Panama *15-3-1*

7 **JOSE DeJESUS**
Puerto Rico *26-2-1*

8 **ROBINSON CUESTA**
Panama *22-0*

9 **KWANG SUN KIM**
South Korea *5-1*

10 **DOMINGO SOSA**
Dominican Republic *17-1*

POUND FOR POUND
Boxing's 10 Best Fighters, Pound For Pound

1 **JULIO CESAR CHAVEZ**
Junior Welterweight

2 **PERNELL WHITAKER**
Junior Welterweight

3 **TERRY NORRIS**
Junior Middleweight

4 **EVANDER HOLYFIELD**
Heavyweight

5 **ORLANDO CANIZALES**
Bantamweight

6 **BUDDY McGIRT**
Welterweight

7 **AZUMAH NELSON**
Junior Lightweight

8 **JULIAN JACKSON**
Middleweight

9 **SUNG KIL MOON**
Junior Bantamweight

10 **JAMES TONEY**
Middleweight

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Aug. 1982: Cooney: Is He The Real McCoy? Plus: Sugar Ray Leonard pinup, Holmes-Cooney coverage, Howard Davis, British heavyweights, Larry Holmes, Limon-Navarette.
Sept. 1982: Leon Spinks: Boxing's Prodigal Son Returns To The Cruiserweights. Plus: Marvin Hagler, Sanchez-Nelson, Max Baer, Milton McCrory.
May 1983: Michael Spinks Wins It All. Plus: Spinks-Braxton color, Bob Arum, Marvin Hagler, Collins-LaPaglia.
June 1983: What Now For Ray Mancini? Plus: Lupe Pintor, Tony Ayala, Mancini-Arguello color, Holmes-Teofilo Stevenson?, Jersey Joe Walcott, Jung-Koo Chang, Frazier-Broad.
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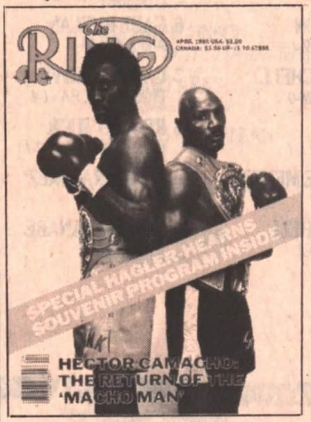
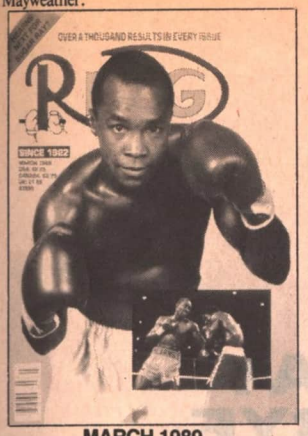
Aug. 1983: Roberto Duran: One 'Mas' Time! Plus: After Holmes?, Colin Jones, Jimmy Montoya, Alexis Arguello, Billy Petrolle.
Sept. 1983: Exclusive: Sugar Ray Leonard Talks About His Past, Present, & Future. Plus: Hagler & Duran: 'How I'll Win The Fight,' Jaime Garza, Panama Lewis, Spinks-Mustafa-Muhammad, Bobo Olson, Jack Johnson, Mustafa Hamsho, Muniz-Chandler.
Nov. 1983: Gerrie Coetzee: The New Heavyweight Champ Sets His Sights On Holmes. Plus: Alexis Arguello, Murray Sutherland, James J. Braddock, Muhammad Ali.
Feb. 1984: Don King Talks And Talks And Talks. Plus: Leonard's return, Eddie Mustafa Muhammad, 1983 quotes, Marvin Hagler, Johnny Bratton, Gerald Hayes, Hagler-Duran color.
March 1984: Fighter Of The Year: Marvelous Marvin Hagler. Plus: *The Ring's* annual awards, 1983 fight calender, Carl Williams, Jung-Koo Chang, Chandler-Ruiz (color).
April 1984: Sugar Ray Leonard: "I'm Gonna Be Better Than Ever!" Plus: *Ring's* ratings of 8,000 fighters, Henry Armstrong, Don Lee, Koji Kobayashi, Mancini-Chacon (color).
June 1984: Bumphus, Lockridge, Duva: 'That Championship Year.' Plus: Ferdie Pacheco, Harry Arroyo, Holmes-Coetzee preview, Pipino Cuevas, Aaron Pryor, Battling Nelson-Joe Gans, Witherspoon-Page.
July 1984: Bazooka's Aim Is True: Gomez Shoots Down LaPorte In The Battle For San Juan. Plus: Michael Spinks, Vinny Pazienza, Tyrone Crawley, Leonard's comback, Chandler-Sandoval, Hagler-Roldan.
Aug. 1984: *Ring* Olympic Special. Plus: Mark Breland, Sugar Ray Leonard, Frank Bruno, Bramble-Mancini (color), Hatcher-Bumphus (color).
Sept. 1984: The Scramble For Bramble: Livingstone's Wrapped Up In Being A Champion. Plus: Hearns-Duran, Rosario-Davis, Aaron Pryor, Eusebio Pedroza.
Oct. 1984: The Beast From The East: John Mugabi Strikes Terror Into The Hearts Of Men. Plus: Olympics, Bill Costello, Davey Moore, Wilfred Benitez, King's heavyweights.
Dec. 1984: Hagler Hammers Hamsho. Plus: Barry McGuigan, James Broad, boxing's best, Julian Jackson, Thomas-Witherspoon.
Jan. 1985: Holmes-Bonecrusher Color Action. Plus: Gerry Cooney, pro debuts (Breland, Hill, Taylor, Biggs, Whitaker, Holyfield), Santos-Medal, Meza-Garza.
Feb. 1985: Showdown: Page Clobbers Coetzee For WBA Title. Plus: Larry Holmes, lightweights, Cooney-Chaplin, McCallum-Minchillo.
March 1985: Fighter Of The Year: Thomas 'Hit Man' Hearns. Plus: Year-end awards, Darrell-Estrada, Nelson-Gomez, Arroyo-Alli.



APRIL 1985

April 1985: Special Hagler-Hearns Program. Plus: British fighters, Hector Camacho, Donald Curry, British fighters, Sonny Liston.
May 1985: The Rematch In Reno: Bramble-Mancini Color Action. Plus: Donald Curry, Aaron Pryor, McGuigan-LaPorte.
June 1985: Holmes' Last Hurrah? Holmes-Bey Color Action. Plus: Holmes vs. all-time greats, Paul-Arroyo, 1901.
July 1985: Marvelous Marvin! Are There Any More Mountains To Climb? Plus: Hagler-Hearns, 10 greatest first rounds, Tyson (2-0) rates the heavys, Tubbs-Page.
Aug. 1985: Seven Elected To The Ring Hall Of Fame (Jose Napoles, Jake LaMotta, Panama Al Brown, Manuel Ortiz, Young Stribling, Thomas Jackling, Lord Lonsdale). Plus: Spinks-Holmes preview, Barry McGuigan.
Sept. 1985: Barry McGuigan: Can He Be Boxing's Savior? Plus: Carl Williams, Thomas-Weaver, Chavez-Mayweather I.
Oct. 1985: The "Macho Man" Rides Again. Plus: Dwight Muhammad Qawi, Camacho-Ramirez, Berbick-Green, Jeff Fenech, John E. Garcia, McCallum-Braxton.
Nov. 1985: Will Hagler Feast On The Beast? Plus: Hagler-Mugabi & Hearns-Shuler previews, Lonnie Smith, Pintor-Meza, Chuck Hull, Benitez-Moley.
Dec. 1985: Michael Spinks: Against All Odds. Plus: Curry-McCrory preview, McGuigan-Taylor, Alexis Arguello, Michael Olajide, Chavez-Pratchett.
Jan. 1986: In Search Of A Heavyweight Champion. Plus: Azumah Nelson, Arguello-Jefferson, Olympic update, Chicago boxing.
Feb. 1986: Mike Tyson: The Legacy Of Cus D'Amato. Plus: Rocky IV, Curry-McCrory, Teddy Mann, Kenny Lane.
March 1986: Co-Fighters Of The Year: Marvelous Marvin Hagler & Donald Curry. Plus: Special year-end awards, 1985 boxing diary, annual ratings, Evander Holyfield, Fenech-Coffee.
April 1986: Witherspoon Tames Tubbs For WBA Title. Plus: Dream fights, Greg Haugen, Tyrell Biggs, Mark Breland, Paul Gonzales, HBO tourney, Witherspoon-Tubbs, Frank Warren, Gene Tunney.
May 1986: Marvelous Marvin Tames The Beast. Plus: Hearns-Shuler, Mike Tyson, Bramble-Crawley, Sandoval-Canizales, Marvin Johnson, McGuigan-Cabrera, Arguello-Costello, Weaver-Williams.
June 1986: Barry's Back In The USA: McGuigan Breathes A Breath Of Fresh Air Into American Fight Scene. Plus: Bobby Czyz, Robbie Sims, Qawi-Holyfield preview, Berbick-Thomas, Bruno-Coetzee.
July 1986: Spinks-Holmes II: Who Really Won? Plus: Frank Bruno, Richie Sandoval, Kevin Watts, Tyson-Tillis, Boza-Edwards-Alli, Johnson-Burns.
Aug. 1986: Is Sugar Ray Still Sweet? Plus: Lloyd Honeyghan, Tyson-Green, Cooney-Gregg, Hall of Fame (Eder Jofre, Benny Lynch, Bud Taylor, Sam McVey, Nat Langham, John Chambers), Bernardo Pinango.
Sept. 1986: Gerry Cooney vs. Mike Tyson: Who Would Win? Plus: Cruz-McGuigan, Hearns-Medal, Tyson-Gross, Sims-Duran.
Oct. 1986: Marvelous Marvin: Can Anyone Fill His Shoes? Plus: Tim Witherspoon, Holyfield-Qawi, Panama's champions, Frankie Duarte, Tyson-Frazier.
Dec. 1986: The Weekend That Shook Up The Boxing World. Plus: Rosario-Bramble, Honeyghan-Curry, Butch Lewis, Buster Drayton, Johnson-Emebe, Raging Bull II.
April 1987: Hagler-Leonard Souvenir Issue. Plus: Czyz, Orlando Canizales, Mugabi-Thomas, Biggs-Snipes, Chavez-LaPorte, Bonecrusher-Witherspoon II, Haugen-Paul.
May 1987: Mike Tyson: Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Year-end awards, *The Ring* annual ratings, Louie Espinoza, Herol Graham.
June 1987: Vinny Paz: Phenom Or Phony? Plus: Tyson-Bonecrusher, Mark Breland, Brian Mitchell, Evander Holyfield, Czyz-Edwards, Olajide-Lee, Curry-Montgomery.
July 1987: Spinks-Cooney: The Fight That Refused To Die. Plus: The new *Ring* ratings, Terry Marsh, George Foreman's return, Khaosai Galaxy, Hearns-Andries, Whitaker-Mayweather.
Aug. 1987: Sugar Ray: Still In Style. Plus: Leonard-Hagler, all-time heavyweight ratings, Czyz-MacDonald, Camacho-Davis.
Sept. 1987: Michael Olajide: The Look Of The Future? Plus: Tyson-Thomas, Jeff Fenech, middleweight muddle, Tsuyoshi Hamada, Juan Roldan, Harold Knight.
Oct. 1987: Special Hall Of Fame Issue: Ali Elected Unanimously! Plus: Hall of Fame directory, Spinks-Cooney, Pazienza-Haugen II, Aaron Pryor.
Nov. 1987: Tyson Wins Heavyweight Triple-Crown. Plus: Triple-crown champs, Matthew Hilton, Carlos Monzon interview, McCallum-Curry.
Dec. 1987: Spinks & Lewis: Boxing's Beastie Boys. Plus: Starling-Breland, Ramzi Hassan, Honeyghan-Hatcher, Holyfield-Ocasio.
Jan. 1988: Darrin Van Horn—Million Dollar Baby? Plus: Evander Holyfield, Hill-Stewart, Juan Coggi, great hookers, AIDS.
Feb. 1988: Gold Outshines Glitter: Tate Tops Olajide. Plus: Tyson-Biggs, Kalambay-Barkley, Hearns-Roldan, fights we'd like to see.
March 1988: Thomas "Hit Man" Hearns: "Now I Own History." Plus: Chavez-Rosario, Roger Mayweather, Rocky Lockridge, bleeders, Bruno-Bugner, Fenech-Zarate, Tony Burton.
April 1988: Evander Holyfield: Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Special year-end awards, Holyfield-Qawi II, Foreman-Sekorski, Hill-Angulo.
May 1988: George Foreman: "I Can Beat Tyson." Plus: Tyson-Holmes, Jesse Benavides, Showtime, no-knockout artists.
June 1988: Sugar Ray Robinson Still The Sweetest! Plus: All-time middleweight ratings, Larry Holmes, Louie Lomeli, McGirt-Warren II, Haugen-Pazienza II.
Aug. 1988: Julio Cesar Chavez: The Kid From Culiacan. Plus: Holyfield, bad decisions, Lockridge-Knight, Starling-Breland II, Brown-Trice, Haugen-Santana.
Sept. 1988: Sugar Ray: Here He Comes Again! Plus: Andries-Czyz, Kid Chocolate, Don Dunphy, Don Lalonde, Andries-Czyz.
Oct. 1988: Mike Tyson: What Price Glory? Plus: Tyson-Spinks, Hearns-Barkley, Davey Moore.
Nov. 1988: Donny Lalonde: "Sugar Ray is Out Of His Mind!" Plus: Hall of Fame selections (Carlos Ortiz, Joe Brown, Billy Graham, Cus D'Amato, Jimmy Jacobs), Nunn-Tate, Molinares-Starling, Honeyghan-Chung, '88 Olympians.
Jan. 1989: Meldrick Taylor: Philly Phenom. Plus: Marvin Hagler, Alex Wallau, Taylor-McGirt, Olympic results.

Feb. 1989: Julio Cesar Chavez. Plus: Chavez-Ramirez, all-time lightweight ratings, Louie Espinoza, Simon Brown, Roger Mayweather.



MARCH 1989

March 1989: Hearns Next For Sugar Ray? Plus: Leonard-Lalonde, Prince Charles Williams, Hearns-Kinchen, Nunn-Roldan, Hines-Hilton.

May 1989: The Best Of '88. Plus: Year-end awards, Evander Holyfield, Pryor-Morales, Fenech-Navarro.

Jan. 1990: Boxing's Bible Reborn At Age 68. Plus: George Foreman (color), Mike Tyson, Carlos Monzon, Duran-Leonard III, LaMotta-Dauthuille.

Feb. 1990: Riddick Bowe/Ray Mercer Target . . . Tyson: Plus: The Olympians as pros (color), Bobby Czyz, Gerry Cooney, Wepner-Liston, Bobo Olson.

March 1990: The '80s—Great Fights, Great Fighters (color). Plus: Jeff Harding, Evander Holyfield, Pete Rademacher, Sharkey-McCoy.

April 1990: Pernell Whitaker—*The Ring* Fighter Of The Year (color). Plus: Chavez-Taylor preview, Leonard-Duran III, Tiger Flowers, Muhammad Ali.

June 1990: Buster! How James Douglas Shocked The World. Plus: Michael Moorer, Camacho-Paez, Tommy Farr, Excuses, Dick Tiger, Ruben Olivares-Jeff Chandler.

July 1990: "I'm Hungrier Than Ever Before!" By Evander Holyfield. Plus: Muhammad Ali painting, Ali-Liston II, New York welters, Michael Carbajal, Jorge Paez, Kid Gavilan.

Aug. 1990: His Greatness Confirmed . . . Is Julio Cesar Chavez The Greatest Mexican Fighter Ever? Plus: Matthew Saad Muhammad, Sullivan & Tyson, Michael Nunn, Mark Breland, Harold Johnson, Louis-Godoy (color).

Sept. 1990: Marvin Hagler—Can He Resist The Irresistible Temptation? Plus: Thomas Hearns, Sanchez-Saddler, Paul Banke, puncher vs. chin, Beau Jack, Robinson-LaMotta (color).

Oct. 1990: Thanks For The Memories: Rocky Graziano, 1922-1990. Plus: Aaron Pryor, Mike Tyson, Napoles-Leonard, A Gathering Of Champions (color).

Nov. 1990: Tyson vs. Foreman: Can Iron Mike Stop The Blast From The Past? Plus: Marciano-LaStarza, boxing's best chins, Azumah Nelson, Sullivan-Kilrain (color).

Dec. 1990: Our Exclusive Annual Report: The State Of The Game. Plus: Joe Grim, Douglas-Holyfield preview, Marciano-Frazier, Douglas-Tyson (color).

Jan. 1991: Boxing's Baddest Bad Boy: Nigel Benn Plays By His Own Rules. Plus: Roberto Duran, Kid Akeem, Jose Napoles, Jimmy Carruthers, LaMotta-Zale, Dempsey-Willard (color).

Feb. 1991: Boxing On TV: Now You'll Pay. Plus: Ismael Laguna, Tommy Morrison, Humberto Gonzalez, Harold Green, Joe Louis, heavyweight *Ring* covers (color).

March 1991: Hunger! It Made Evander A Champ. Plus: Charles Murray, Billy Bird, Khaosai Galaxy, Armstrong-Duran, computer flyweight tournament, Sonny Liston (color).

April 1991: Julio Cesar Chavez—*The Ring* Fighter Of The Year (color). Plus: Mike Tyson, Wilfred Benitez, Pedro Decima, computer bantamweight tournament.

May 1991: Ali-Frazier I: 20 Years Later, Still The Fight Of The Century. Plus: Hometown heroes, George Costner, Galindez-Saad Muhammad, Tony Canzoneri, computer featherweight tournament, Ali-Frazier pinup.

June 1991: Pain, Frustration, Confidence, And Hope: Meldrick Taylor's Life After Chavez. Plus: Holyfield-Foreman preview, Norris-Leonard, Freddie Steele, computer lightweight tournament, Tiger-Hearns, Sugar Ray Leonard (color).

July 1991: Tyson's Title Hopes: He Ain't What He Used To Be . . . But It's Not Gonna Matter. Plus: Eusebio Pedroza, Myung Woo Yuh, Willie Meehan, Hearns-Hill preview, computer junior welterweight tournament, Gomez-Fenech, controversial heavyweight finishes (color).

Aug. 1991: Fat, Funny, And Forty-Two, But Certainly No Fraud: Foreman Gives Holyfield A Fight . . . And The World A Thrill. Plus: Harry Greb, Louis-Conn I, making weight, computer welterweight tournament, Dempsey-Marciano, Holyfield-Foreman (color).

Oct. 1991: A Hit Again—How Far Can Thomas Hearns Go? Plus: Battling Levinsky, Oba Carr, Dave McAuley, Muhammad Ali, Lou Ambers, Luther McCarty, ethnic matchups, computer light heavy tournament, Cerdan-Hagler, Rocky Marciano (color).

Nov. 1991: Mike Tyson's Fight For Greatness: Will November 8 Be His Moment? Plus: Edwin Rosario, Jeff Fenech-Azumah Nelson, Overrated and Underrated, Giardello-Graham, Lennox Lewis, Marcel Cerdan, Muhammad Ali (color).

Dec. 1991: Evander Holyfield vs. Mike Tyson: Who Will Win And Why. Plus: Eddie Aliano, Jack Britton, Muhammad Ali, Pernell Whitaker, Rating the 44 World Champions, Marcel Cerdan, Henry Cooper, Ezzard Charles-Jersey Joe Walcott (color).

Jan. 1992: Our Exclusive Annual Report: The State Of The Game. Plus: Jerry Quarry, Julio Cesar Chavez, Mysterious Billy Smith, Joey Gamache, moving up in weight, Billy Conn-Michael Spinks, Joe Louis (color).

March 1992: Turning Heads—Ray Mercer Makes His Statement To The Heavyweights. Plus: Lou Nova, 1980 Olympic team, boxing cards, Rodrigo Valdes, *Ring's* New Year's wish, Joe Louis-Muhammad Ali, Jack Dempsey (color).

April 1992: Is Evander Holyfield Tough Enough To Stay On Top? Plus: Buddy McGirt, George Foreman, Toney-McCallum, referees, Marvin Hart, Al Hostak, Eusebio Pedroza-Salvador Sanchez, Ketchel-Johnson (color).

May 1992: Fighter Of The Year: James Toney. Plus: Roy Jones, Rocky Graziano, longest title reigns, Myung Woo Huh & Khaosai Galaxy, James Warring, Billy Soose, Duran-Chavez, Marvin Hagler (color).

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Nov. 1992: Who'll Stop The Reign? Is Riddick Bowe The Next Heavyweight Champion? Plus: Mike Tyson, Tommy Morrison, Chavez-Camacho preview, All-Time Top 10: Australia, Tracy Patterson, Pat Barrett, Knockout Brown, Corbett-Sullivan (color).

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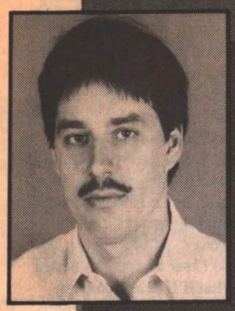


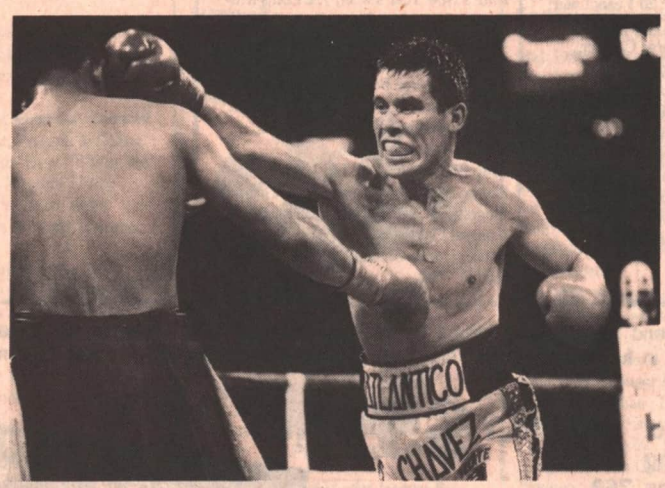
Ryan Out Loud

By Jeff Ryan

A HELLUVA WAY TO SAY GOODBYE

Julio Cesar Chavez is not a scary guy. Moments before the bell, he is more concerned with singing through the Mexican National Anthem than staring through his rival. He doesn't shave his head to look like Iran, or issue threats to sound like Iraq. You fight Chavez and you cash the best check of your life, you don't get rendered unconscious and twitching for the national-TV audience, and, when you lose, you get told it's not really your fault. No one ever got blamed for failing to time Sandy Koufax' fastball, break Rod Laver's serve, or box out Kareem under the rim.

These should all be comforting thoughts for Pernell Whitaker. When he loses to Chavez next year, when he leaves the ring with rosin dust on his backside, his face as lumpy as a bowl of sugar on a humid day, and his IBF junior welterweight title belt jetting away to Mexico like some burned out Wall Street banker with reservations at Club Med, he'll have no reason to hang his head. Except for the fact that holding it up might hurt.



Chavez overpowered Camacho. The only test that remains is a unification battle vs. IBF champion Pernell Whitaker.

Following his torturing of all-fright/ more-flight/ no-fight Hector Camacho in September, Chavez has only one more pressing matter at hand, one more loose end to tie up, one more *t* to cross, one more *i* to blacken. After that, he can ride down some dusty Mexican backroad and off into the sunset. Or, perhaps, off into the Tequila sunrises. A good many of them.

The pressing matter, of course, is a superfight with Whitaker. It is the signature on the masterpiece, the guacamole on Chavez' enchilada. He sometimes says he wants 100 wins, but this isn't baseball. Putting up big numbers means little to one's place in history. A countryman he once defeated, Jose Luis Ramirez, won 100 himself. Heck, Sean O' Grady won 81. Chavez would get many of the 18 wins he needs in non-title blowouts in Mexican towns The Associated Press wire doesn't even reach. What's more, 100-0 might really be 99-1. If you believe a recordkeeper as respected as ABC boxing consultant Bob Yalen, a fledgling Chavez lost by disqualification in 1981.

No, numbers don't matter at this stage. Letters do: C-H-A-V-E-Z vs. S-W-E-E-T P-E-A on H-B-O or T-V-K-O.

Chavez could fight the big one next, and, if he won it, retire secure in the knowledge that he was indeed the Roberto Duran of his era. Anyone who didn't acknowledge as much would be clinging to some icon foolishly deemed unapproachable, while examining only selective pieces of the evidence. Chavez doesn't electrify an arena by merely exiting the dressing room, but he has *completely dominated* three weight classes. He may

not have lumps of coal in his eye sockets or murder on his mind, but he doesn't have skeletons like "no mas" and Kirkland Laing in his closet, either.

Chavez appeared to be slipping a bit last year, or, at the very least, appeared bored with his job. After his surrealistic stoppage of Meldrick Taylor in March 1990, he had beaten nobodies and sacrificial mandatory offerings, and watched stooges like John Duplessis and Lonnie Smith promise him a beating, then try to run for their lives. They were spared their lives, but Chavez, unfortunately, wasn't spared the drain on the motivational reservoir that was required to chase them.

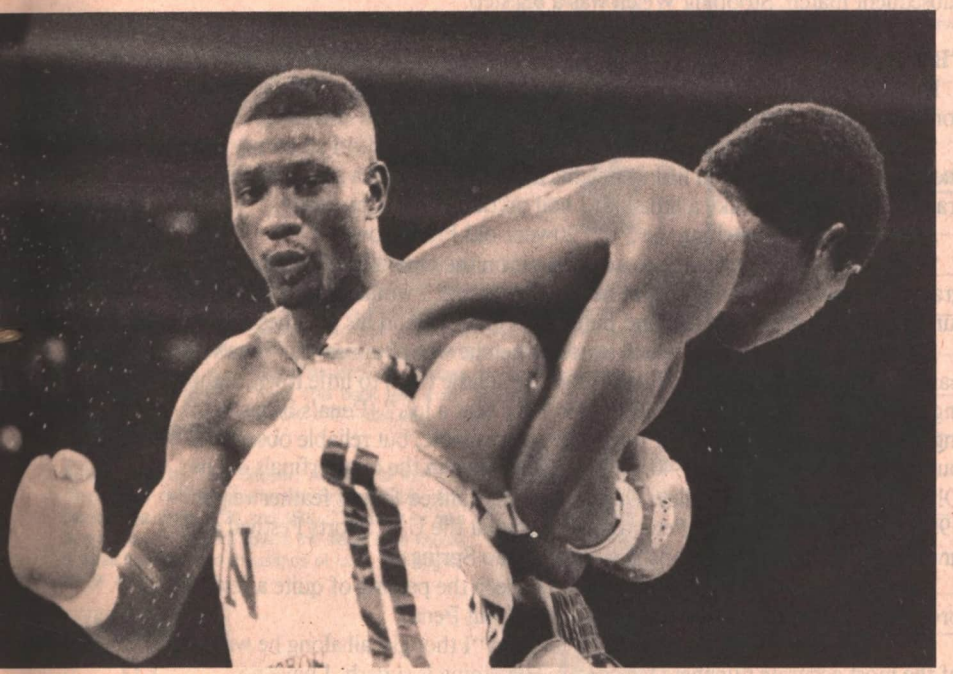
As 1992 approached, Chavez looked like a forest fire that was still dangerous, but at least showing signs of flaming out. Then he flared again unexpectedly, a brilliant blaze that raged through Angel Hernandez, Frankie Mitchell, and Camacho this year, leaving nothing but kicked ashes in his wake. Anyone downwind might want to evacuate now.

Chavez is probably a weight class beyond his absolute physical peak. What he is at is his *mental* peak. He hints at retiring by the end of next year, and can sense his place in history and the importance of his lone serious challenge. He knows that Whitaker is now held in higher regard than Taylor was before that unforgettable St. Patrick's Day at the Las Vegas Hilton two years ago. It is The Pea, after all, who has managed to woo away many of the voters who automatically typed Chavez' name atop their pound-for-pound ratings for the longest time.

Whitaker has been nearly flawless. To his credit, he has never had to overcome a bad cut, climb off the canvas from anything more than a flash knockdown, or rally when badly behind on the cards. *He rarely loses a round.* It would be great to jump from that boxing past into the world of modeling. It's not a good idea to jump from it into a Chavez fight.

You watch Chavez hunt down Camacho—hitting him with a punch brought up three weight classes, a punch hard enough to bruise and to cut, but not hard enough to completely end the victim's suffering—and you don't see anything Whitaker could do against him working. Does he backpedal, as he did early in his career? When Chavez starts cutting off a ring, he has a way of making the other guy feel like a cat caught behind the refrigerator. Ask the Macho Man about the Nacho Man.

If Whitaker decides to stand flatfooted and use his speed and upper body movement, as he has in his last several outings, that, too, seems suicidal. Whitaker has never experienced anything like the body attack Chavez employs, and The Pea's soft punches—he has scored just three kayos in his last 12 bouts—won't rattle one of the best chins in boxing. Whitaker dekes, and Chavez digs a left to the liver. Whitaker lands a straight right, and Chavez smiles and retaliates with the same counter right that lumped up Camacho and Taylor. If the cannonballs of Ramirez, Edwin Rosario, and Roger Mayweather didn't halt Chavez' charge, what is Whitaker's Pea-shooter attack going to do?



Would Whitaker have enough strength to hold off Chavez? It would be the sternest test of his career.

"I would beat Whitaker," Chavez says confidently. "I'd like to fight Whitaker just to shut up HBO."

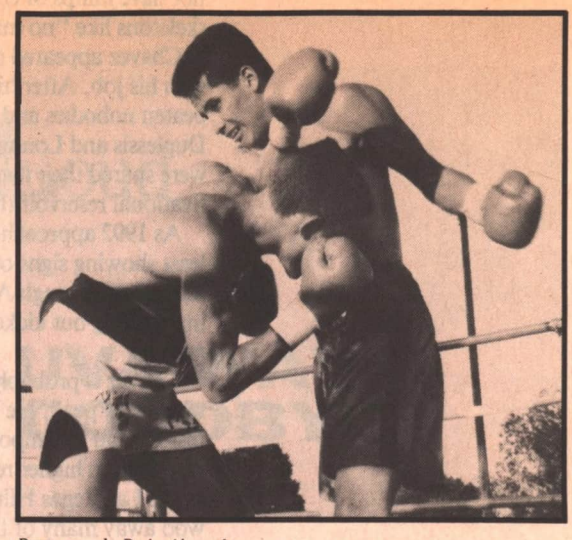
HBO, which has Whitaker under contract (Chavez fights on Showtime), seems to be an innocent party in the rivalry. But no matter. Let Chavez derive his passion and motivation these days from whatever injustice he may feel, be it real or imagined. Properly primed, he is a treat to watch, one of the greatest ever to raise a welt or a goosebump.

And properly primed, he should do something to Sweet Pea so violent that the Little Green Sprout won't be allowed to watch unless accompanied by the Green Giant or some other adult guardian. ■

New Faces

Frank Pena

Junior Lightweight



Pena pounds Paris Alexander

By Phil Woolever

It takes many combinations to open the vault to fistic stardom. Frank Pena found one of his in August, when he creamed the usually durable Rowdy Welch in surprising fashion. Pena had previously appeared to be more of a conservative stylist than flashy kayo threat. Against Welch, however, he impressed an ESPN audience with a stone-cold knockout, blasting out his foe at 2:27 of the opening frame.

"Actually, I was looking to get some work and go the distance," he said.

Pena is a member of the red-hot Las Vegas Gloves team, featuring Eddie Cook, Vince Phillips, Skipper Kelp, and Kennedy McKinney. He has managed to keep pace. In his initial pro contest, ringsiders saw a young fighter with more composure than the average first-timer. In his sixth fight, Pena was held to a draw by Paris Alexander. He used the bout as a lesson, and improved in every subsequent match. Stopping Welch was a big step.

"I've been working on my balance, and the power's coming along," he said. "Before, my balance was my downfall."

Ken Adams is the latest addition to Pena's team, having signed on as trainer for his last three fights. All have been kayos.

"Coach Adams is teaching me to calm down," Pena said. "I sit on my feet, then move. Also, I've been lifting weights and working with a sports medicine trainer. I used to look like a little kid; I had no definition in my body."

Adams has been watching the 5'8", 20-year-old Pena grow.

"I worked with Frank some as an amateur on the Operation Gold Program," he said. "I wouldn't claim he's a slugger, but I would say we've got him turning on the balls of his feet and putting his body behind his punches more."

During his amateur days, which started when he was about seven, Pena was based in Aurora, Colorado. "I used to go from little town to little town, fighting three times a week," he recalled. "So I got beat a lot." (Pena's barnstorming leaves a complete listing for those days unavailable, but reliable observers put his amateur mark at 250-40.) In 1988, Pena lost in the quarterfinals of the Olympic Trials to Kevin Kelley, who is currently ranked first at featherweight. 1989 was a vintage year, as Pena took one gold at the U.S. Sports Festival and another at the U.S. Championships in Colorado Springs.

Pena's manager, Akbar Muhammad, has seen the passing of quite a few prospects. He starts to glow when he thinks about Pena.

"I'm very happy with his progress," he said. "I thought all along he was one of the most accurate punchers I ever saw. His timing is superb. I have no doubts he'll be world champion. We've just got to climb the ladder. Maybe one more eight-round fight because of the cut [over his left eye, caused by a clash of heads in the Welch fight]."

All the good vibes about Pena, and probably the source of his peace of mind, are traceable to his stability outside the ring.

(Continued on page 54)

PRO RECORD

	1990	
Dec. 20	Sergio Medina, Las Vegas	KO 4
	1991	
Jan. 18	Manuel Neris, Las Vegas	KO 1
Feb. 15	Gerardo Mercado, Las Vegas	W 6
April 7	Richard Salazar, Las Vegas	W 4
May 23	Sal Lopez, Las Vegas	W 6
July 11	Paris Alexander, Gardnerville, NV	D 6
Aug. 16	Anthony Fernandez, Las Vegas	W 6
Oct. 3	Bernard Price, Great Falls, MT	W 4
Oct. 27	Chino Sanchez, Thornton, CO	KO 2
Nov. 14	Pete Baca, Bozeman, MT	KO 2
Dec. 19	Norberto Bravo, Las Vegas	W 4
	1992	
April 18	Francisco Gutierrez, Las Vegas	KO 4
May 21	Ernesto Tobias, Las Vegas	KO 3
Aug. 13	Rowdy Welch, Phoenix	KO 1

RECORD:	FIGHTS	WON	LOST	DREW	KO
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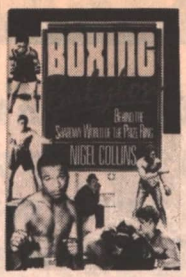

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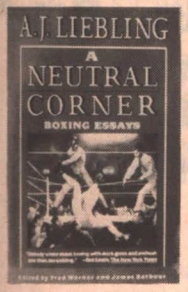

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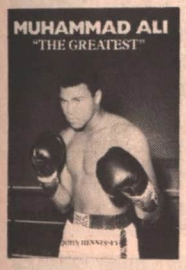

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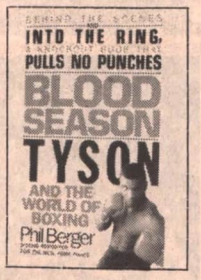

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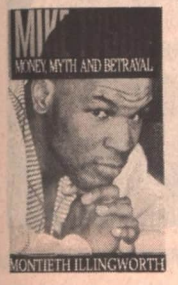

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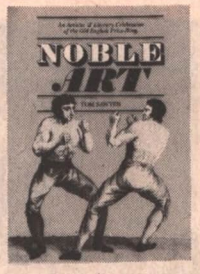

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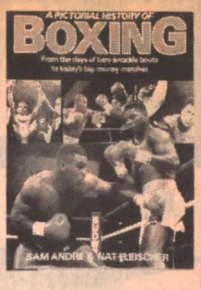

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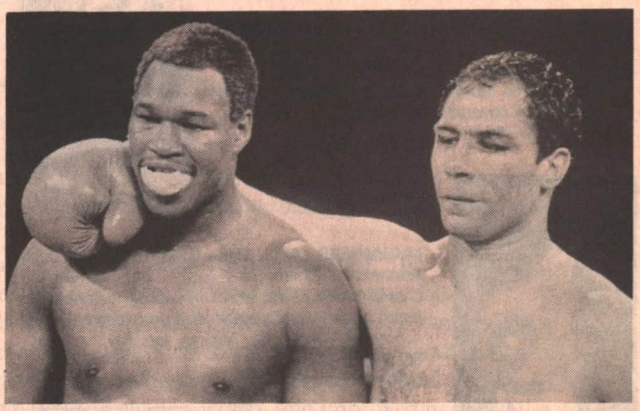
1

We're always asking you to identify Muhammad Ali's opponents, so we thought we'd switch up and try one of Larry Holmes' title fight victims. No, it's not Earnie Shavers.



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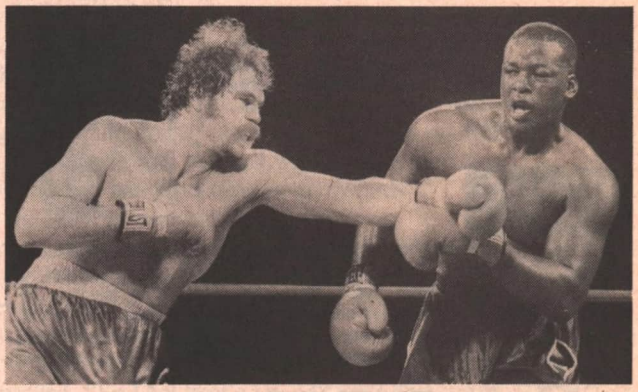
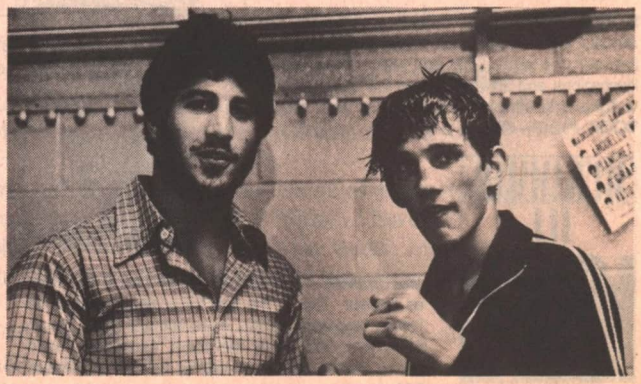
Tex Cobb went from boxing to Hollywood. We're not sure exactly what his opponent has done since leaving the ring. One thing's for sure: He's not hurting for bucks.



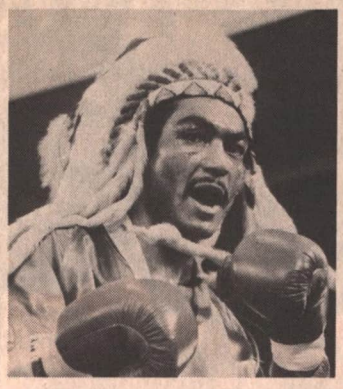
3

This photo was taken 15 years ago at Madison Square Garden. Both fighters would become world champions, one at light heavyweight, with a Star of David on his trunks, the other at lightweight, wearing a shamrock.

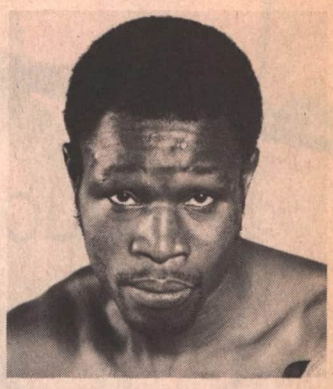


Your Boxing IQ

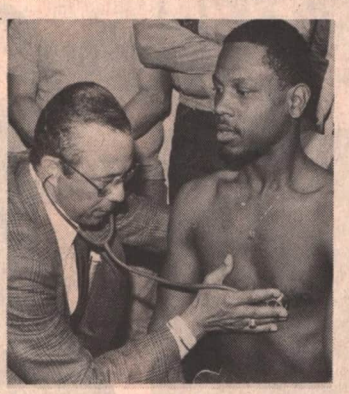
4 Joe Hipp hasn't won a world title, but this Native American was crowned in 1980, and again in 1983. Among his victims: Matthew Saad Muhammad.



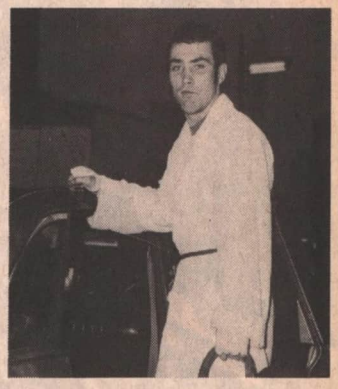
5 This durable Philadelphia southpaw lost nine times before winning the IBF junior middleweight title. He had one of boxing's best chins—until he fought Julian Jackson.



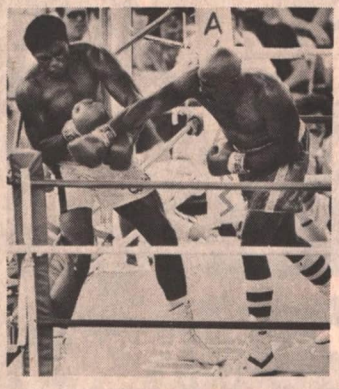
6 Yes, doc, there is a heart in there. This junior middleweight never reached the top, but in May 1984, he commanded the spotlight by scoring the first knockdown of Sugar Ray Leonard.



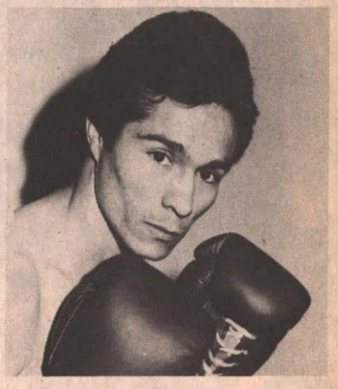
7 This middleweight apparently didn't believe in showering at the gym. Small hint: He was a southpaw. Big hint: Note the steering wheel on the *right* side of the car.



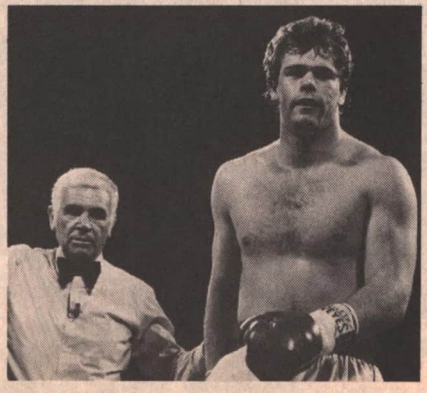
8 Very few heavyweights were Quick enough to withstand the power of Earnie Shavers. In June 1982, this fighting cowboy managed to rise from the canvas and outpoint "The Acorn" over 10 rounds. It was the biggest win of his career.



9 In one of the wildest fights of the '80s, this stringbean Mexican junior featherweight lifted himself off the floor and scored a first-round kayo to win the WBC title. No Kid'n.



10 After the 1984 Olympics, this silver medalist was among the hottest heavyweight prospects in boxing. He turned out to be a bust, losing via quickie kayo to Bert Cooper in 1987, and never recovering.



ANSWERS:

1) Lucien Rodriguez 2) Buster Douglas; 3) Mike Rossman & Sean O'Grady; 4) Marvin Camel; 5) Buster Drayton; 6) Kevin Howard; 7) Alan Minter; 8) James Tillis; 9) Juan "Kid" Meza; 10) Willie deWit

Photos By Marc Morrison & Ralph Fountain

TRACKING BIGFOOT

The Endless Journey Of A Journeyman Heavyweight

By Jeff Ryan

Everett "Bigfoot" Martin doesn't dream of Bigfoot sightings in living rooms across America, of his appearing on your Sony Trinitron with a can of Desenex in his hand or a Dr. Scholl's pad beneath his instep. He doesn't fantasize about telling one Foreman to shove it when he asks for a rematch, or another foreman to shove it when he asks for some proof that yesterday's sick day was legit. No, Bigfoot's dreams of being heavyweight champion are not selfish ones. His would be a kinder, gentler reign. No room for ego or arrogance, or, for that matter, mandatory contenders.

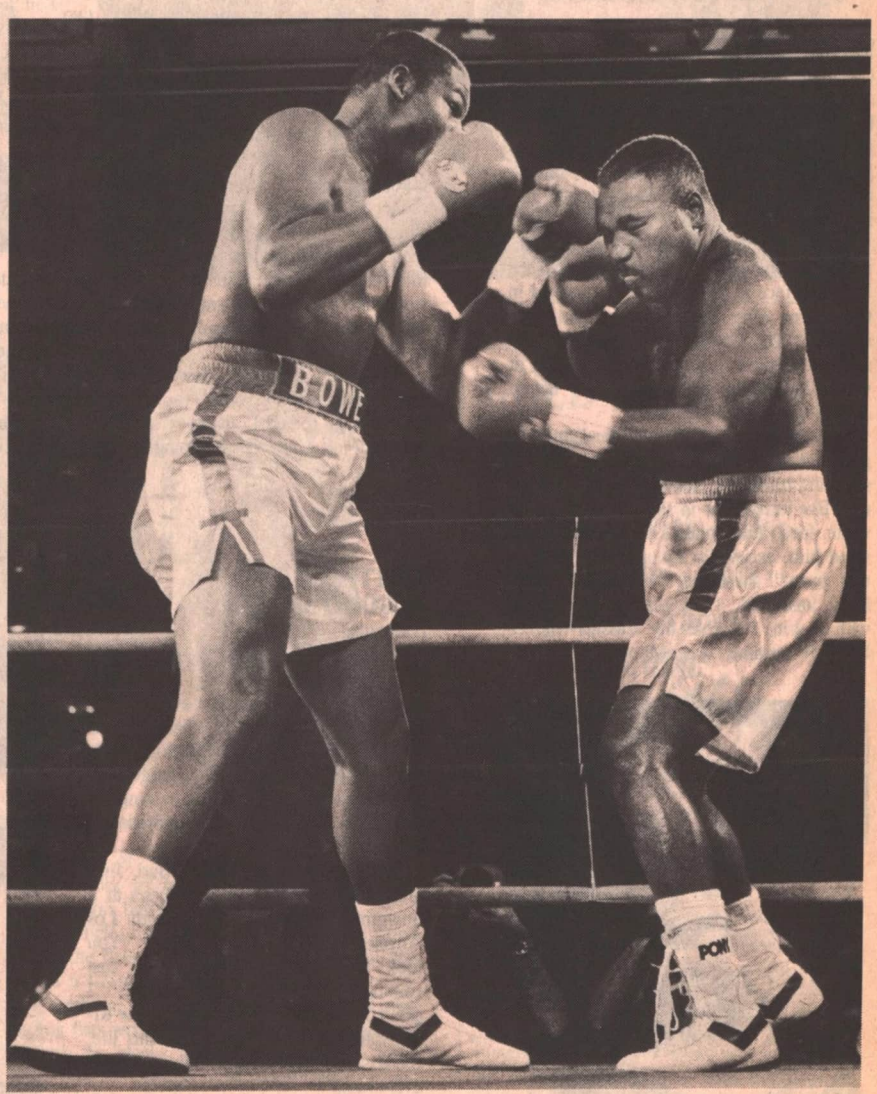
"What I'd really want to do is separate the titles," says the WBC's 26th-rated contender. "No man has to have the whole nine yards. Let other guys hold the other two titles. You'd see me defend maybe two or three times, but I'd find the lowest guy in the ratings and give him a shot first. I can tell you that those guys without a big name, they deserve their chance, too."

None of it is going to happen, of course. But is it really *that* farfetched? That's what he can't help but wonder when he thinks of Bert Cooper, an off-the-board challenger, almost making Evander Holyfield an off-the-ring apron ex-champion with a few punches that had the heavyweight king using the ropes as a safety net. *Bert Cooper,* who just happened to be next to his phone when the call for a substitute came. Who just happened to walk into a $500,000 payday, then almost walked into the title when Holyfield walked into a right hand.

"I can beat Holyfield," Bigfoot insists. "Nobody ever put pressure on him. I sparred with him twice [in 1987]. The first day he tore my butt up, but the second day it was definitely even. His people got mad that I was fighting hard. They said I don't go in there to just spar. Hey, I don't go in there to be no punching bag, neither."

He thinks of Cooper's near-miss, and he can't help but dwell on the loss he handed

(Continued on page 64)



A typical Bigfoot Martin performance came in May, when he troubled Riddick Bowe until being stopped on cuts in the fifth round. Though better than your average clubfighter, Bigfoot rarely wins the big one.

Time Capsules

By Stanley Weston

With files of more than three million black-and-white and color negatives, *The Ring* magazine photo collection is by far the largest in the world. Each issue, we'll pore through the files to bring you some of the most unique boxing photographs ever taken

WHITE FACE

(December 25, 1985)

Al Jolson gained immortality in show business by painting his white face black. Former heavyweight champion Muhammad Ali certainly didn't need grease paint to embellish his already well-established immortality when he spent 2½ hours in a Louisville, Kentucky, beauty salon submitting to a mud-pack facial that transformed his black face to white. When he looked in the mirror after the treatment had been applied, "The Greatest" was aghast. "I'm still the prettiest," he bellowed. "Black or white. But I like that darker color better. And I don't need no sun."

But master showman Ali, realizing the potential novelty and impact of such a shocking transition, showed up at a Christmas Eve party later in the day wearing his white face. Everybody, of course, recognized him, except for his mother. "Who is that ghost?" she asked. "Your son," somebody answered. "Oh, dear," she sighed with a grin. "Is that my Cassius Marcellus?" It certainly was, Mama.

TWO AT A TIME

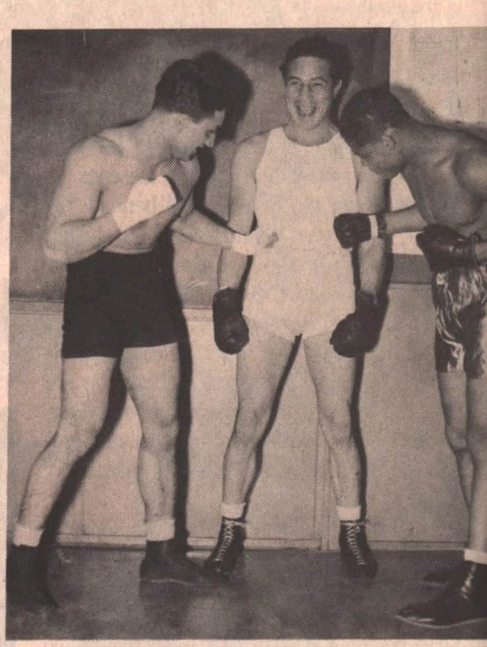
(January 2, 1935)

In Detroit for an exhibition with Babe Hunt, heavyweight champion Max Baer visited the local gym for a light workout. As flashbulbs lit up the dingy old place, the champ did what he liked to do best—play like a clown.

Baer's exhibition was an added attraction to the main event between veteran Patsy Perroni and new heavyweight sensation Joe Louis, scheduled for January 4, 1935. With Perroni, Louis, and Baer all sharpening up in the gym at the same time, the press had a field day. After a lengthy interview with Baer—who cares about the other two guys—Maxie obliged photographers by missing the heavybag by three feet, tripping when he tried to skip rope, and yawning when the 10-pound medicine ball slammed into his gut. Anything for a laugh.

The classic picture was taken at the request of Perroni (left), who paid a photographer $5 "to get my picture taken with the champ." Unfortunately for Patsy, Louis' manager, Julian Black, shoved Joe (right) into camera range. All the while, Baer stood like a Greek god, smiling broadly, his rock-hard, nothing-can-hurt-me body tensed.

When they finally got down to business, huge underdog Perroni's vast experience and courage forced Louis to settle for a 10-round decision victory, snapping his knockout string at five. As for Madcap Maxie, the crowd roared its approval when he staggered Babe Hunt with jolting rights to the chin—though not many—and roared with laughter when he invited Hunt to swing at his unguarded body. One thing is for sure: Nobody in the sellout crowd asked for his money back.



ANYTHING FOR A GOOD CAUSE

(December 4, 1936)

Boxing's champions and former champions have historically contributed their presence at charitable events. Left to right: Former world champs Bud Taylor, Jim Jeffries, and Jackie Fields showed up for a Shriners' fundraiser at The Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles and graciously dispensed hundreds of autographs.

When the festivities ended, Bud, Jim, and Jackie were the invited guests at a downtown restaurant, along with Los Angeles Mayor Frank L. Shaw. "You look like you can still go 10 fast rounds," the mayor told Jeffries. "I don't know about that," replied the 61-year-old Jeff with a grin. "In this life, there is definitely a time and a place for everything."

"Yeah," Taylor quipped. "Like signing autographs."

LITTLE GIANTS OF THE '20s

(August 3, 1929)

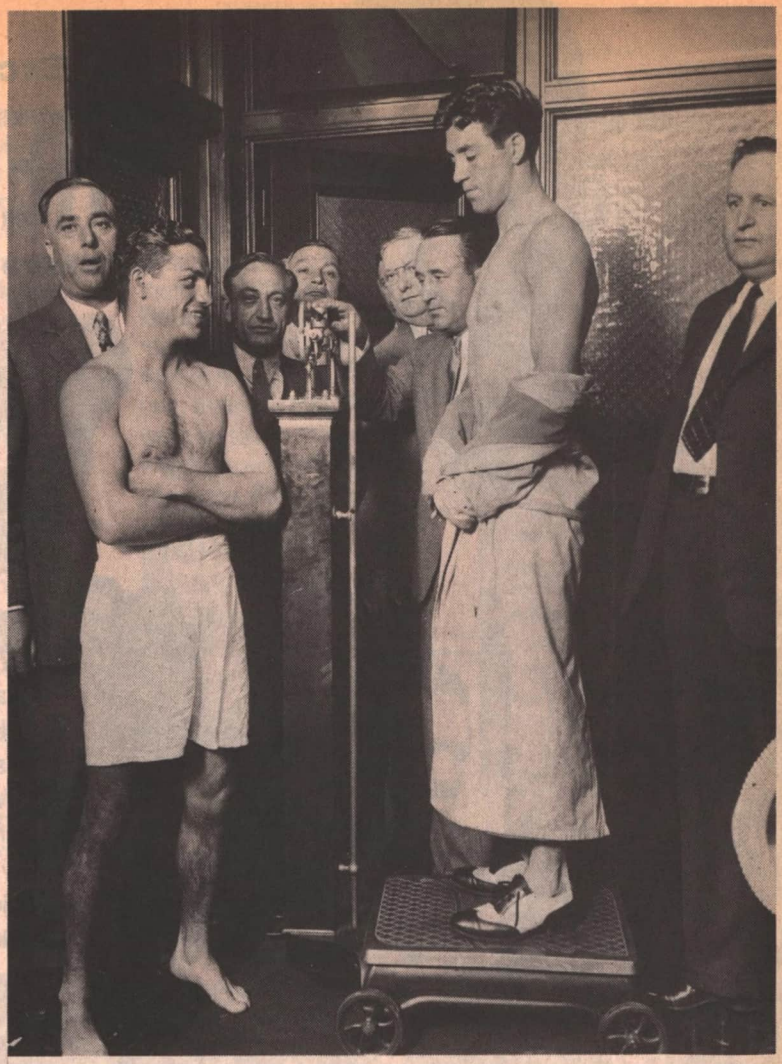
That's world lightweight champion Sammy Mandell, wearing brightly polished, black and white wing-tip shoes, on the scales. And that's challenger Tony Canzoneri, glistening black hair slicked back, arms crossed over his waist, trying to focus in on Sammy's avoiding eyes. It is obvious that Mandell is worried about something—what we'll never know—and that Tony is almost arrogantly confident.

What intrigues me about this picture is that it captures in a single image the unique flavor of boxing in the dismal yet flamboyant era of the '20s and '30s. Here it is, in the depths of the Great Depression, a 10-round lightweight championship prize fight between a pair of guys weighing 135 pounds. Both are Italian-Americans, and neither is considered a hard hitter. Yet when they entered the ring at Chicago Stadium, every one of the more than 25,000 seats was filled. What attracted so great a throng on that blistering hot August night? I only wish I could put it into words. All I can do is tell you what happened.

Champion Mandell and challenger Canzoneri blazed away toe to toe, filling every one of the 30 minutes of fighting. The fans rarely touched their seats. They stood atop them, screaming, yelling, cursing, demanding, but all with a deep sense of appreciation for the two supermen willing to sacrifice their lives to give the audience its money's worth. For devoted fight fans, it can't get any better than that.

Dave Barry was the referee. You remember him; he's the guy who, two years before, refereed the second Jack Dempsey-Gene Tunney fight (the famous "Battle Of The Long Count"). Dave voted for Canzoneri. But the two judges thought that champion Mandell had won. So handsome Sammy walked out of the ring still lightweight champion of the world.

One year later, Mandell lost the title when he was knocked out cold by Al Singer in one round. But late in the same year (1930), Canzoneri knocked *Singer* out cold, also in the first round, to take the title. Which goes to prove that what goes around . . .



NOT EVERYBODY HATED JACK JOHNSON

(July 26, 1910)

White America's seething hatred for Jack Johnson triggered race riots and went so far as to influence changes in federal law. The lurid tales about the great champion's personal escapades and resulting persecutions have unfolded in films, stage plays, and thousands of magazine and newspaper articles. But have you ever heard or read even one word about what black Americans thought about Johnson? I hadn't until I uncovered this short article published in a New York newspaper just 24 days after Johnson's annihilation of "Great White Hope" Jim Jeffries, a work of brutal artistry that intensified anti-Johnson hatred to the boiling point.

The article, reproduced from the fragile original, is the first solid evidence that Johnson was indeed a towering inspiration for his downtrodden brethren, much the same way Joe Louis' blazing fists were translated into pride, hope, and strength by blacks around the world 30 years later. And it proves, most significantly of all, that Jack Johnson did indeed have his own army of worshipping supporters.

GOLD BELT FOR JOHNSON.

Studded With Diamonds, Its Cost Will be About $25,000.

1910

NEW YORK, July 26—Jack Johnson, the colored pugilist, is to get a $25,000 diamond studded gold belt emblematic of the heavyweight championship of the world, from the colored people throughout the United States, and the presentation is to be made at a big dinner to be given in this city sometime in November. Subscriptions are being solicited by a committee headed by "Baron" Wilkins, the leader of the negro colony in this city.

It is said that $5000 has been practically assured by the New York negroes. A systematic effort to gather subscriptions in all cities is to be made.

The belt will be of solid gold, studded with 200 diamonds of different sizes, the center stone to weigh more than four carats.

It is expected that small contributions will be sent in from towns and villages. Should the subscriptions exceed $25,000, the surplus will be spent on the banquet, which is to cost $10 a plate.

Razor Ruddock

Evander Holyfield

Tommy Morrison

Michael Moorer

Our Exclusive Annual Report:

THE STATE OF THE GAME

by Steve Farhood

Same old game? Hardly. One year ago, Mike Tyson wasn't in jail. In fact, he was scheduled for a try at heavyweight champion Evander Holyfield. That fight, of course, never happened. Boxing has survived despite the cancellation. (And Holyfield has survived *because* of it.) Still, the state of the game is usually related to the state of the heavyweights. As 1992 comes to a close, the Final Four (Holyfield, Riddick Bowe, Razor Ruddock, and Lennox Lewis) promises to provide plenty of drama.

Otherwise, it seems like more of the same. Julio Cesar Chavez is still undefeated, and he still hasn't fought Pernell Whitaker. HBO is still waiting for Terry Norris to become a superstar. Thomas Hearns is still overpricing himself. And James Toney is still angry, which means he's still champion.

Here, then, is *The Ring's* third annual State of the Game.

HEAVYWEIGHTS

The Final Four tournament (Razor Ruddock vs. Lennox Lewis on October 31, and world champion Evander Holyfield vs. Riddick Bowe on November 13) is the best thing to happen to the division since HBO unified the title five years ago. Actually, it might even be better; in 1987, everyone knew Mike Tyson was the baddest man on the planet. Today, you'll find as many fans touting Ruddock as Holyfield or Bowe.

The aforementioned fighters, of course, are deserving. There's only one heavyweight who's been left out. Kronk southpaw Michael Moorer has credentials at least as impressive as those of Bowe and Lewis. Furthermore, he's all-action, and wonderfully unpredictable. But until he settles his legal problems—his trial for aggravated assault, and several lesser charges, is scheduled for November—he can't be viewed as a title threat.

As for the two x-factors, Tommy Morrison and George Foreman just might fight each other. That means one of them will get x'd out. The winner? Well, the survivor of the tournament will have to fight *someone*.

Think About It: **Razor Ruddock** helped make his name by twice losing to **Mike Tyson**. But it's Ruddock's *other* loss that defies belief. In April 1985, The Razor was stopped in eight rounds by **Dave Jaco**. That's the same trialhorse who has lost to, among others, **Carl Williams**, **Pierre Coetzer**, **Tony Tucker**, **Mike Tyson**, **Buster Douglas**, **Mike Weaver**, **Oliver McCall**, **George Foreman**, **Alex Stewart**, **Tommy Morrison**, and **Bert Cooper**.

CRUISERWEIGHTS

The Big Tease continues. The cruiser class always seems on the verge of gaining legitimacy. Such is the case today, with Thomas Hearns and Iran Barkley having threatened to challenge the division's biggest name, WBA champion Bobby Czyz. The cruisers need a big fight, and only a matchup involving two of those fighters will qualify. But Barkley will probably stay at 168 pounds (James Toney is calling), and, as usual, Hearns is overpricing himself. That means that Czyz may end up fighting the contender he would most like to avoid, Orlin Norris. Having jumped *down* from heavyweight, Norris is exceptionally tough.

WBC champion Anaclet Wamba means nothing outside of Europe, and newly crowned IBF king Al Cole will find stardom only at heavyweight. Robert Daniels, who showed promise, has fought once since being dethroned by Czyz 20 months ago. Worse yet, three rising contenders, Jade Scott, Derek Angol, and Anthony Hembrick, have been knocked off in recent months.

The Big Tease? Seems more like the Deep Freeze.

Think About It: Does the division deserve its reputation? In the cruisers' 13-year history, there have been 20 different world champions. Only two of them, **Dwight Qawi** and **Bobby Czyz**, had formerly reigned as titlists (both at light heavyweight). And only one, **Evander Holyfield**, went on to win the heavyweight crown. Where have you gone, **Piet Crous**?

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS

The division has never been worse. Its best fighter, IBF champion Prince Charles Williams, can't seem to make a fist without breaking it. WBC king Jeff Harding is better than he looks. On the other hand, Frank Tate and former champion Virgil Hill, who are scheduled to square off for the vacant WBA title, look

Bobby Czyz pummels Don Lalonde

Leeonzer Barber

Andrew Maynard

Virgil Hill

Al Cole

Jade Scott

HEAVYWEIGHT
Best Puncher
Razor Ruddock
Best Boxer
Tony Tucker
Most Protected
Alex Garcia
Is He *Still* Around?
Michael Dokes
Matchmaker's Dream
Razor Ruddock-Michael Moorer
Best-Kept Secret
Herbie Hide
Deserves A Title Shot
Michael Moorer
Most Fun To Watch
Tommy Morrison
On The Way Down
Bert Cooper
Underrated
Oliver McCall
Best Fight This Year
Michael Moorer KO 5 Bert Cooper

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT
Best Puncher
Booker Word
Best Boxer
Virgil Hill
Most Protected
Prince Charles Williams
Is He *Still* Around?
Lotte Mwale
Matchmaker's Dream
Iran Barkley-Jeff Harding
Best-Kept Secret
Earnie Magdaleno
Deserves A Title Shot
Henry Maske
Most Fun To Watch
Randall Yonker
On The Way Down
Andrew Maynard
Underrated
Leeonzer Barber
Best Fight This Year
Iran Barkley W 12 Thomas Hearns

CRUISERWEIGHT
Best Puncher
James Warring
Best Boxer
Orlin Norris
Most Protected
Richard Mason
Is He *Still* Around?
Bash Ali
Matchmaker's Dream
Bobby Czyz-Thomas Hearns
Best-Kept Secret
Arthur Williams
Deserves A Title Shot
Orlin Norris
Most Fun To Watch
Jade Scott
On The Way Down
Johnny Nelson
Underrated
Anaclet Wamba
Best Fight This Year
Nate Miller KO 7 Jade Scott

good, but don't always fight that way. And Iran Barkley, who provided a spark by outgunning Thomas Hearns in March, has dropped back down to 168 pounds.

Leeonzer Barber, Henry Maske, Tim Hillie, and Randall Yonker offer hope, so better days may be ahead. But Andrew Maynard and Anthony Hembrick, a pair of 1988 Olympians with star potential, have been busts. And because of the dearth of young talent, Guy Waters, David Vedder, and Eric Nicoletta continue to be rated in at least one of the alphabet top 10s. At least Tom Collins is gone.

What the 175-pounders need is a Seniors Tour of their own. Bob Foster is in pretty decent shape, and so is Michael Spinks. Maybe Matthew Saad Muhammad can come back, too. Except that he's never left.

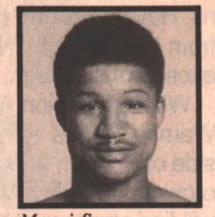
Think About It: **Prince Charles Williams** is the longest-reigning champion in boxing. (He won the IBF title by stopping **Bobby Czyz** in October 1987.) But he hasn't been particularly active, having defended only eight times in five years. In comparison, **Michael Spinks** defended 10 times in four years, and **Bob Foster** 14 times in six-plus years.

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS

If nothing else, the 168-pounders are different. WBC champion Mauro Galvano, apparently under the assumption that he gets paid by the round, has four knockouts in 21 victories. Former WBA champion Victor Cordoba is a Panamanian living in, of all places, Northern Ireland. As we went to press, IBF champion Iran Barkley was scheduled to defend against Doug DeWitt in *China*. And if you've never seen Chris Eubank, you don't know how different different can really be.

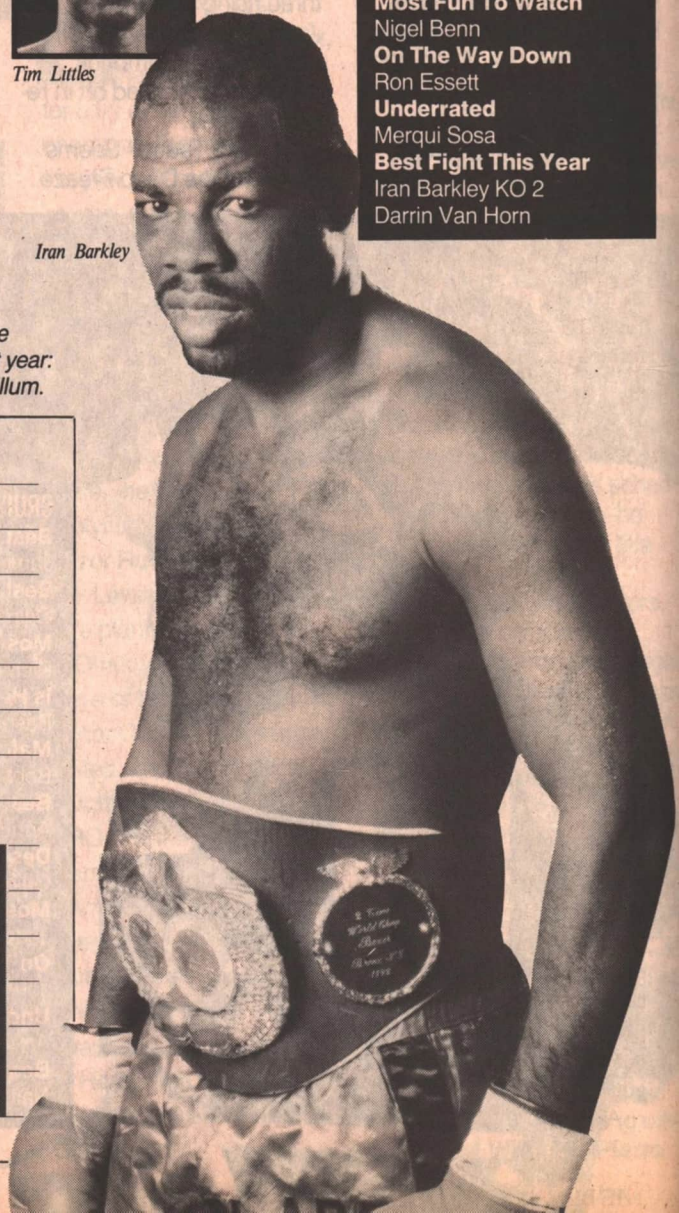
Actually, there's a lot of talent here. Blue grass thoroughbred Darrin Van Horn can look inspired—or miserable. Powerpunchers Nigel Benn and Merqui Sosa are among boxing's most entertaining fighters. Tim Littles has begun to emerge. Fidel Castro Smith, the former Slugger O'Toole, has a great name, but where's the beard and cigar? And newly crowned WBA champ Michael Nunn now fights here, which is either very good or very bad, depending on your taste.

More fighters are en route, including Olympian Chris Byrd and middleweights James Toney and Mike McCallum. Their arrival will further strengthen a surprisingly strong division.



Merqui Sosa

Tim Littles



Iran Barkley

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHT

Best Puncher
Nigel Benn
Best Boxer
Michael Nunn
Most Protected
Fidel Castro Smith
Is He *Still* Around?
Doug DeWitt
Matchmaker's Dream
Chris Eubank-Nigel Benn II
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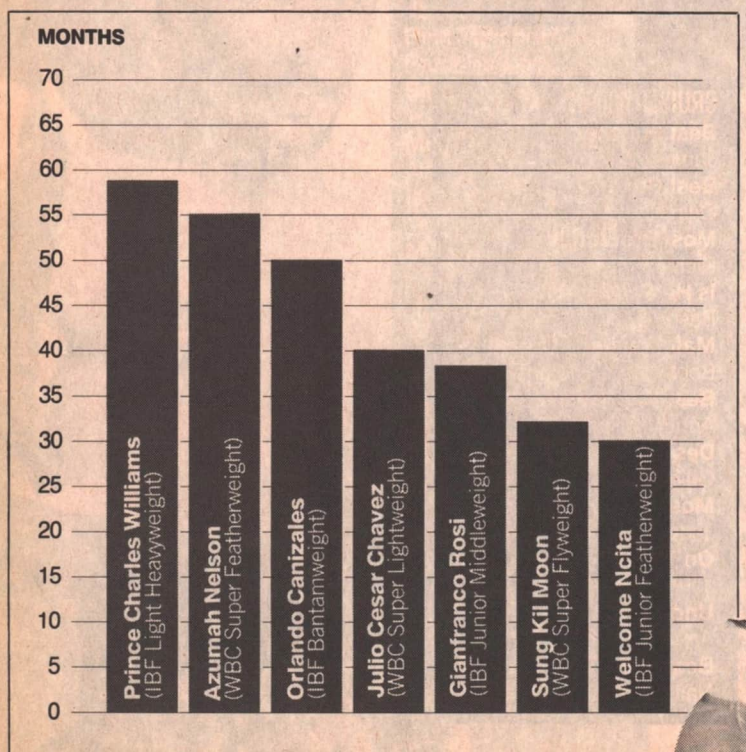
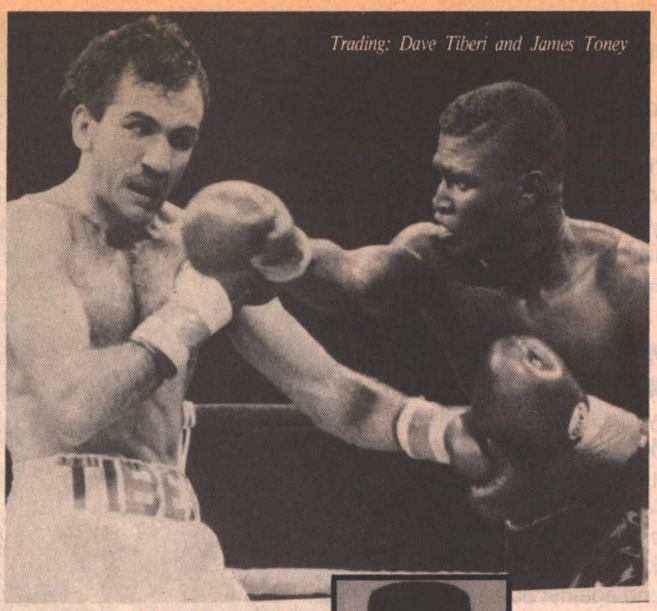
Tim Littles
Deserves A Title Shot
Merqui Sosa
Most Fun To Watch
Nigel Benn
On The Way Down
Ron Essett
Underrated
Merqui Sosa
Best Fight This Year
Iran Barkley KO 2
Darrin Van Horn

LONGEST-REIGNING CHAMPIONS

The following shows boxing's most established champions, and the number of months of their uninterrupted title reigns. Missing from last year: Khaosai Galaxy, Myung Woo Yuh, Pernell Whitaker, and Mike McCallum.



Think About It: Sugar Ray Leonard, Thomas Hearns, and Roberto Duran have fought at super middleweight, but the division's most intriguing story remains **Graciano Rocchigiani**. The German southpaw reigned as IBF champion in 1988 and '89. He vacated the throne, and, in 1991, won the European light heavyweight title. He hasn't fought at all this year, and has apparently retired with an unbeaten mark of 32-0. But Rocchigiani has hardly been perfect: In 1989, he was arrested for white slavery, procuring, and extortion.


Trading: Dave Tiberi and James Toney

MIDDLEWEIGHTS

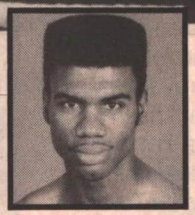
Despite IBF champion James Toney's continued activity, the division has been a disappointment. Toney and WBC counterpart Julian Jackson are no closer to a unification battle than they were one year ago. (At this point, we'd settle for either champion vs. WBA king Reggie Johnson.) And Roy Jones, arguably the most talented 160-pounder of all, continues to tease us with dominant performances against fighters too slow to tie his tassles. Jones is only 23, but he's certainly ready to test himself against the best. Look for him to explode in 1993.

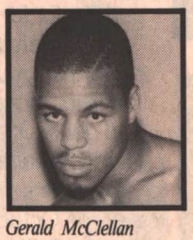
If Toney and Mike McCallum rise to 168 pounds, most likely to replace them are a trio of bangers, Lamar Parks, Gerald McClellan, and Bernard Hopkins. It's conceivable that one year from now, Parks and Hopkins will be world champions. (McClellan is the reigning WBO champion.) Thomas Tate, so gutty in his loss to Jackson, deserves another chance, and Canada's unbeaten Otis Grant bears watching.

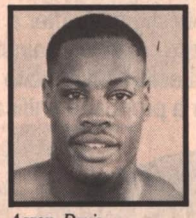
Who knows, maybe WBC 154-pound champion Terry Norris will get tired of fighting welterweights and join the fray. Norris-Roy Jones—now there's a bout to get excited about.

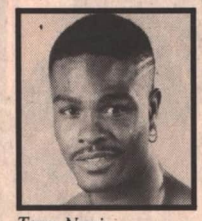
MIDDLEWEIGHT
Best Puncher
Julian Jackson
Best Boxer
Roy Jones
Most Protected
Chad Parker
Is He *Still* Around?
Herol Graham
Matchmaker's Dream
Julian Jackson-James Toney
Best-Kept Secret
Bernard Hopkins
Deserves A Title Shot
Roy Jones
Most Fun To Watch
Tyrone Trice
On The Way Down
Brett Lally
Underrated
Gilbert Baptist
Best Fight This Year
Julian Jackson W 12
Thomas Tate

Think About It: **James Toney's** title reign has been an extended walk on a tightrope; five of his six defenses have been decided by the judges. He easily outpointed **Glenn Wolfe**, but survived **Mike McCallum** by majority decision and split draw, and **Dave Tiberi** and **Reggie Johnson** by split verdicts. And remember, Toney qualified for a title shot by scoring a split decision over **Merqui Sosa**, and won the crown by coming from behind to kayo **Michael Nunn**.


Julian Jackson


Gerald McClellan


Aaron Davis

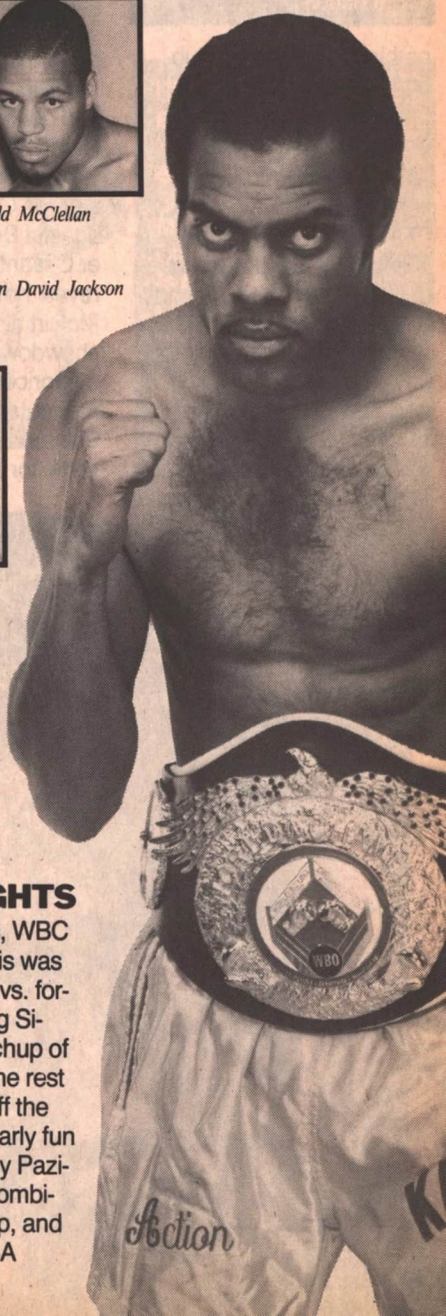

Terry Norris

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS

As we went to press, WBC champion Terry Norris was scheduled to defend vs. former welterweight king Simon Brown in a matchup of the division's best. The rest are several lengths off the lead, and not particularly fun to watch, either. Vinny Pazienza's new style, a combination hop, skip, jump, and sprint, made him WBA champion, but he was more entertaining when getting beaten up. (Paz is scheduled to return from the disabled list later this year.) IBF titlist Gianfranco Rosi keeps winning ugly, and unbeaten master boxer John David Jackson wins dull.

If Norris defeats Brown, the 154-pounders will be in desperate need of a puncher. Look for Argentina's highly rated Julio Cesar Vasquez to fill the void. The other contenders are flawed: Carl Daniels has the talent to rebound from his loss to Norris. Power-puncher William "Hammer" Jones is undefeated, but

John David Jackson



JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHT
Best Puncher
Julio Cesar Vasquez
Best Boxer
Terry Norris
Most Protected
Gianfranco Rosi
Is He *Still* Around?
Lloyd Honeyghan
Matchmaker's Dream
Terry Norris-Buddy McGirt
Best-Kept Secret
Michael Ward
Deserves A Title Shot
Julio Cesar Vasquez
Most Fun To Watch
Vincent Pettway
On The Way Down
Simon Brown
Underrated
Verno Phillips
Best Fight This Year
William Jones KO 3
Tim Rabon

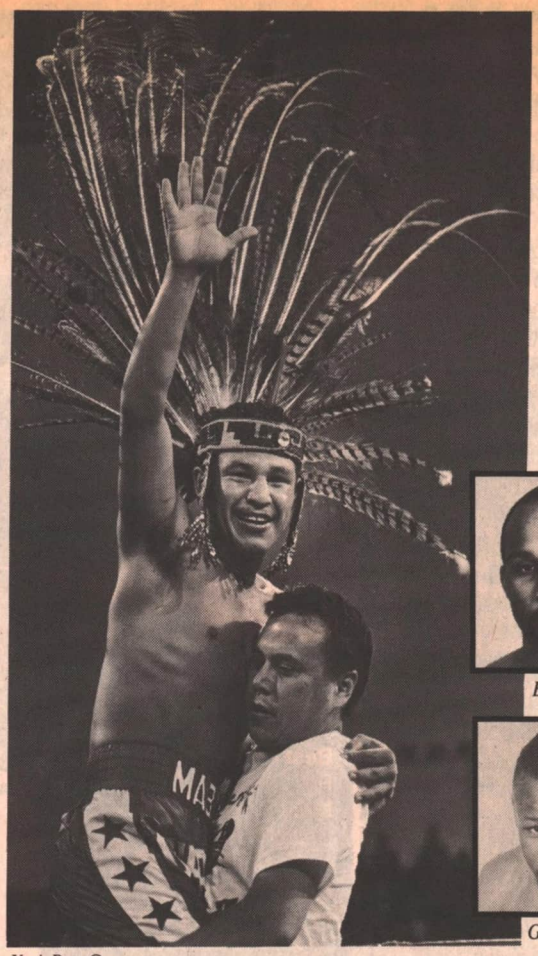
nothing more than a club-fighter. And isn't it about time someone called the Missing Persons Bureau concerning Aaron Davis? Maybe "Superman" has moved back to Krypton.

Think About It: In July 1989, WBA junior middleweight champion **Julian Jackson**, who had won the title in his second try, kayoed **Terry Norris**. Eight months later, Norris, trying for the title for the second time, won the WBC version by knocking out **John Mugabi**, who had won the title in his second try. And in Norris' third defense, he knocked out former champion **Donald Curry**, who had won the title in his second try. If you didn't get any of this, we suggest you give it a second try.

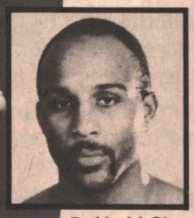
WELTERWEIGHTS

What WBC champion Buddy McGirt and WBA titlist Meldrick Taylor have found out is that waiting for Julio Cesar Chavez is like waiting for Godot. Both 147-pound champions would like to defend against boxing's best fighter— McGirt for money, and Taylor for revenge. But "J.C. Superstar" hasn't appeared anxious to move up.

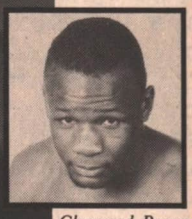
Taylor moved up himself and got kayoed by Terry Norris. As a result, he's viewed as suddenly vulnerable. His October 31 defense against Belfast-based bomber Crisanto Espana should reveal how much he has left. McGirt also considered a showdown with Norris, but overpriced himself. After a mandatory defense against Genaro Leon, he'll have to settle for a proposed unification match vs. IBF champion Maurice Blocker, who may not be the best fighter in the division, but is probably the toughest to beat.



Yori Boy Campas



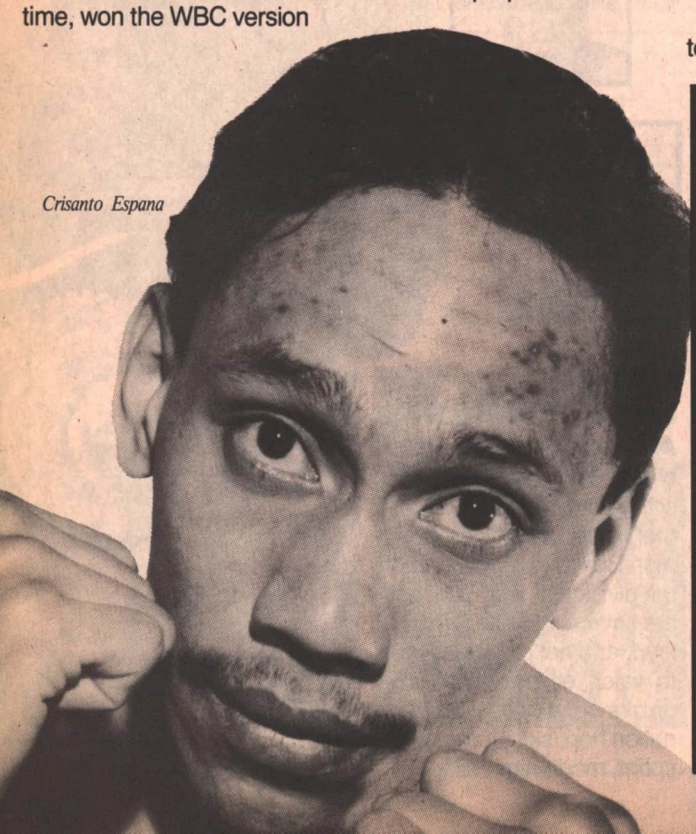
Buddy McGirt



Glenwood Brown

Many of the top-level contenders are rising, including British blaster Pat Barrett, France's Ludovic Proto, and Mexico's Yori Boy Campas, a poor man's Chavez. Add Americans Glenwood Brown, who deserves one more try, and Buck Smith, who has 117 wins and fights as often as he brushes his teeth.

Think About It: **Michael Carruth** could become an instant star, at least in Europe. At the Olympic Games in Barcelona, the Dubliner became Ireland's first gold medal winner since 1956, and the nation's first ever in boxing, when he outpointed heavily favored Cuban **Juan Hernandez** in the 147-pound final. In order to turn pro, Carruth will have to change careers; he's a sergeant in the Irish army.



Crisanto Espana

WELTERWEIGHT
Best Puncher
Crisanto Espana
Best Boxer
Buddy McGirt
Most Protected
Genaro Leon
Is He *Still* Around?
Harry Arroyo
Matchmaker's Dream
Buddy McGirt-
Julio Cesar Chavez
Best-Kept Secret
Oscar Checa
Deserves A Title Shot
Glenwood Brown
Most Fun To Watch
Yori Boy Campas
On The Way Down
Kevin Pompey
Underrated
Stephan Johnson
Best Fight This Year
Yori Boy Campas W 12
Roger Turner

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS

This division was number one even before Pernell Whitaker arrived. Now it's

stronger and deeper than ever. But if IBF champion Whitaker and WBC titlist Julio Cesar Chavez don't square off soon, fans should sue promoters Dan Duva and Don King on grounds of gross negligence. Most of boxing's best matchups materialize for one simple reason: money. Chavez and Whitaker can't maximize their bank accounts by ignoring each other. So what's the problem? Let's hope we're not still calling for this fight next year.

Meanwhile, the ranks continue to thicken. As Terrence Alli, Roger Mayweather, and Edwin Rosario grow old, Charles Murray, Oba Carr, and Vince Phillips prepare for prime time. Only a step behind are Puerto Rico's Felix Trinidad, California's David Kamau, Mexico's Carlos "Bolillo" Gonzalez, Kronk southpaw Donald Stokes, Dominican Pedro Sanchez, Australian-based Russian Kostya Tszyu, and newly crowned WBA champion Morris East. And if that's not enough talent, Hector Camacho and Greg Haugen are still willing to stir up trouble.

Think About It: In *The Ring's* pound-for-pound ratings, the 140-pound weight class is represented by Chavez (number one) and Whitaker (number two). The last time boxing's two best fighters competed in the same division was in 1988, when heavyweights **Mike Tyson** and **Michael Spinks** were rated first and second. At least they fought each other.

LIGHTWEIGHTS

Whenever a unified champion rises in weight, the fighters chosen to compete for the vacant titles are those with reputations and connections. Oh, yeah, talent helps, too. None of the newly crowned kings figures to meet the lofty standards set by Pernell Whitaker, who vacated earlier this year. But at least they're deserving of the opportunity.

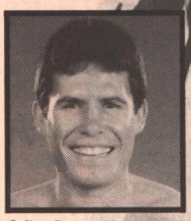
Most likely to emerge as the best of the bunch is WBC champion Miguel Angel Gonzalez. The Mexican is 25-0 (23), and a better puncher than his heavily hyped countryman and namesake, junior welterweight Carlos "Bolillo" Gonzalez. We're not sure how good WBA champion Joey Gamache is; the Maine man has won two world titles without being tested. The IBF title remains vacant. Freddie Pendleton and Tracy Spann, who were both top-five contenders during Whitaker's reign, will be rematched; their first bout ended in a technical draw. Pendleton is our lukewarm pick.

Most deserving of opportunities are Darryll Tyson, Sharmba Mitchell, Rafael Ruelas, and Jorge Paez. (As we went to press, the latter two were scheduled to be matched.) One last thing: Is Oscar De La Hoya ready for a title try yet?

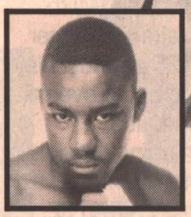
Think About It: Should former featherweight champion **Jorge Paez** defeat **Rafael Ruelas** and go on to win his second world title, the Mexican will join a select group of active fighters who have leapfrogged divisions to win multiple championships. The others: **Roger Mayweather**, **Darrin Van Horn**, **Roberto Duran**, **Vinny Pazienza**, **Bobby Czyz**, and **Thomas Hearns**.

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHT

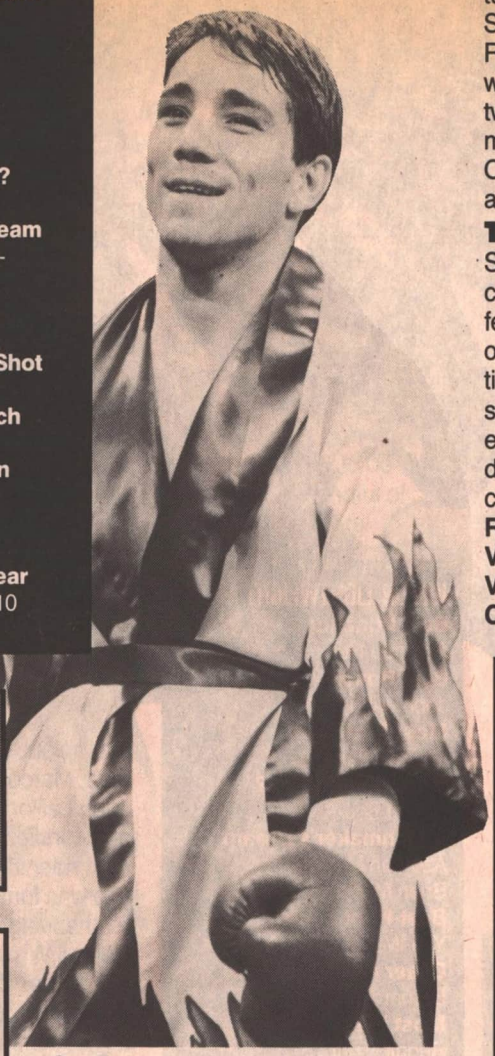
Best Puncher
Rafael Pineda
Best Boxer
Pernell Whitaker
Most Protected
Pedro Sanchez
Is He *Still* Around?
Frankie Randall
Matchmaker's Dream
Julio Cesar Chavez-Pernell Whitaker
Best-Kept Secret
Kostya Tszyu
Deserves A Title Shot
Terrence Alli
Most Fun To Watch
Terrence Alli
On The Way Down
Roger Mayweather
Underrated
Donald Stokes
Best Fight This Year
Charles Murray W 10 Sammy Fuentes



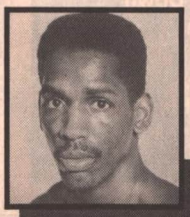
Julio Cesar Chavez



Donald Stokes



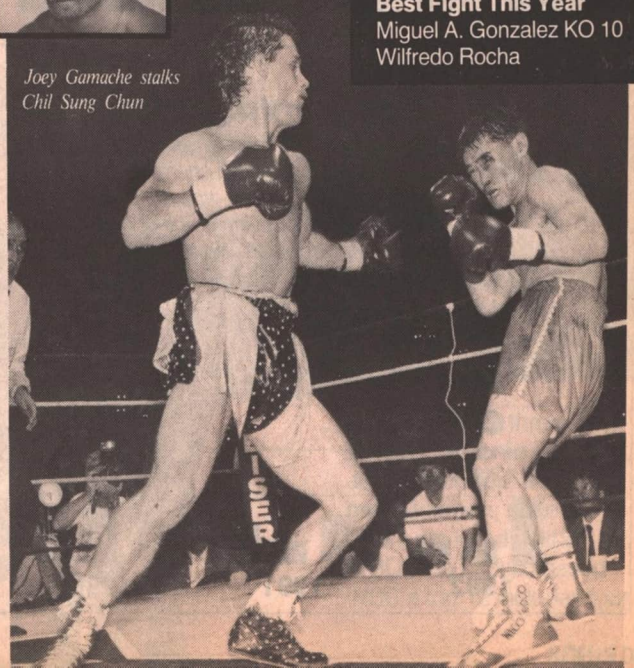
Greg Haugen



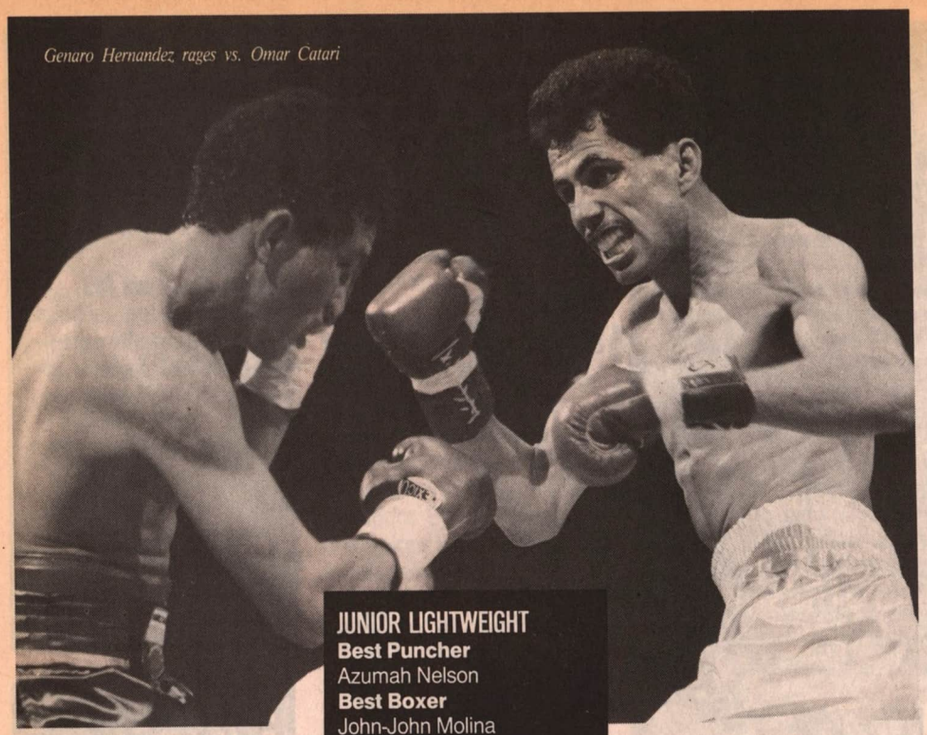
Tracy Spann

LIGHTWEIGHT

Best Puncher
Miguel Angel Gonzalez
Best Boxer
Sharmba Mitchell
Most Protected
Chad Broussard
Is He *Still* Around?
Eusebio Pedroza
Matchmaker's Dream
Joey Gamache-Jorge Paez
Best-Kept Secret
Miguel Julio
Deserves A Title Shot
Sharmba Mitchell
Most Fun To Watch
Jorge Paez
On The Way Down
Frankie Mitchell
Underrated
Jean-Baptiste Mendy
Best Fight This Year
Miguel A. Gonzalez KO 10 Wilfredo Rocha



Joey Gamache stalks Chil Sung Chun



Genaro Hernandez rages vs. Omar Catari

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS

For as long as WBC champion Azumah Nelson fights here, the 130-pound class will command respect. The division isn't particularly deep, and Nelson aside, the titlists (the WBA's Genaro Hernandez and the IBF's John-John Molina) don't compare favorably with those at other weights. But in March, Nelson confirmed his greatness by stopping triple-crown champion Jeff Fenech. That gave the Ghanian victories over four world champions (Wilfredo Gomez, Marcos Villasana, Juan LaPorte, and Fenech), and certified him as a dominant ruler in two divisions. (He was formerly WBC featherweight king.) With Pernell Whitaker no longer residing at 135 pounds, Nelson is a good bet to eventually add a third title.

This is an aging division: Azumah is 34, Bernard Taylor 35, Harold Warren 32, and Calvin Grove 30. The division's best young fighters are Californians Hernandez and Gabe Ruelas, and a pair of big hitters, Reggie Tuur and Japan's Yuji Watanabe. A sleeper to watch: Mexican veteran Jorge Ramirez.

Think About It: Throughout his championship career, **Azumah Nelson** has been a rock of stability. During his three-year reign as WBC featherweight champion, there were seven different WBA and IBF titlists. And during his ongoing reign as WBC super featherweight king, there have been nine other champions, including **Tony Lopez**, **John-John Molina**, and **Brian Mitchell** twice each.

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHT

Best Puncher
Azumah Nelson
Best Boxer
John-John Molina
Most Protected
George Parra
Is He *Still* Around?
Kamel Bou-Ali
Matchmaker's Dream
Azumah Nelson-
Brian Mitchell
Best-Kept Secret
Yuji Watanabe
Deserves A Title Shot
Bernard Taylor
Most Fun To Watch
Reggie Tuur
On The Way Down
Rowdy Welch
Underrated
Jorge Ramirez
Best Fight This Year
Azumah Nelson KO 8
Jeff Fenech

FEATHERWEIGHTS

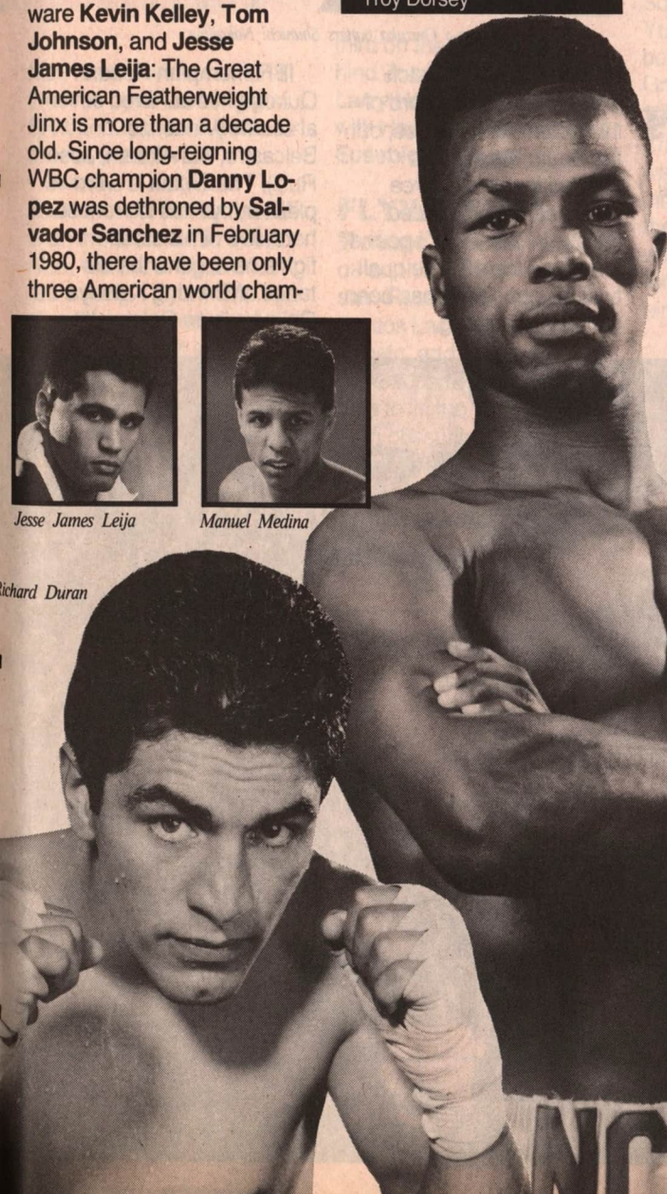
There are better divisions, but not too many. This class features three solid champions, none of whom are strong enough to be secure, and a slew of serious contenders. WBC titlist Paul Hodkinson is a Barry McGuigan clone without the long reach. Hoko can bang, but must first work his way inside. As we went to press, the Briton was scheduled to defend against former 122-pound champion Fabrice Benichou. A tougher challenge will come early next year vs. the number-one contender, brash New York southpaw Kevin Kelley. WBA king Yung Kyun Park is crude, but since winning the title by steamrolling Antonio Esparragoza, the South Korean has yet to decelerate. His title fight opposition, however, has been weak. At age 21, versatile IBF champion Manuel Medina has already beaten Troy Dorsey and Tom Johnson. Look for him to rise to 130 pounds real soon.

Aside from Kelley, the best young fighters are England's ultra-smooth Colin McMillan, Texan Jesse James Leija, and Colombia's Ever Beleno. And don't ignore two former world champions, the still-dangerous Louie Espinoza and Filipino Luisito Espinosa.

Think About It: Beware **Kevin Kelley**, **Tom Johnson**, and **Jesse James Leija**: The Great American Featherweight Jinx is more than a decade old. Since long-reigning WBC champion **Danny Lopez** was dethroned by **Salvador Sanchez** in February 1980, there have been only three American world champions, **Steve Cruz** (WBA), **Calvin Grove** (IBF), and **Troy Dorsey** (IBF). Only Grove made a successful defense (vs. **Myron Taylor**).

FEATHERWEIGHT

Best Puncher
Paul Hodkinson
Best Boxer
Colin McMillan
Most Protected
Ever Beleno
Is He *Still* Around?
Kelvin Seabrooks
Matchmaker's Dream
Paul Hodkinson-
Colin McMillan
Best-Kept Secret
Colin McMillan
Deserves A Title Shot
Tom Johnson
Most Fun To Watch
Troy Dorsey
On The Way Down
Harold Rhodes
Underrated
Yung Kyun Park
Best Fight This Year
Kevin Kelley W 12
Troy Dorsey



Jesse James Leija

Manuel Medina

Richard Duran

Rudy Zavala

Tracy Patterson

Welcome Ncita

JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHTS

Why do we feel that in the year 2001, Daniel Zaragoza will still be the WBC's top-rated contender? Zaragoza deserves an award for long and meritorious service, but the division has passed him by. There are three deserving champions, none of whom he is likely to dethrone, and a handful of youthful contenders.

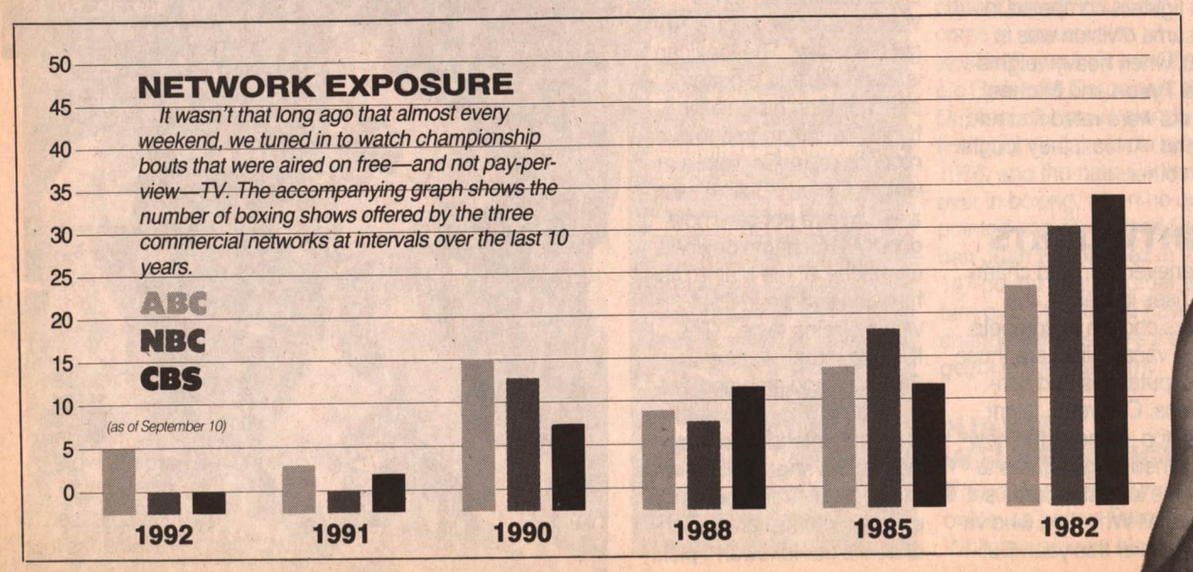
The champions have little in common besides their experience. The WBA's Wilfredo Vasquez (43 fights) is a puncher from Puerto Rico; the IBF's Welcome Ncita (31 fights) is a boxer from South Africa; and the WBC's Tracy Patterson (47 fights) is a boxer/puncher from Highland, New York. Patterson is most likely to keep his title belt for one simple reason: The most threatening contender, Kennedy McKinney, is the mandatory challenger to both Vasquez and Ncita. But the 1988 Olympic gold medalist must prove he has overcome drug problems.

The freshest face is dynamic puncher Rudy Zavala, who needs to improve his defense. Former champions Jesus Salud and Julio Gervacio remain factors, and California's Richard Duran is unbeaten, though overrated.

Think About It: Evidence that the alphabet organizations rate fighters according to party lines: The Venezuela-based WBA's top 12 includes three Venezuelans, **Antonio Cemeno**, **Jose Rincones**, and **Ramon Guzman**, none of whom are rated by the WBC. The Mexico-based WBC's top 12 includes four

JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHT

Best Puncher
Wilfredo Vasquez
Best Boxer
Jesse Benavides
Most Protected
Richard Duran
Is He *Still* Around?
Daniel Zaragoza
Matchmaker's Dream
Tracy Patterson-
Kennedy McKinney
Best-Kept Secret
Jae Won Choi
Deserves A Title Shot
Kennedy McKinney
Most Fun To Watch
Rudy Zavala
On The Way Down
Pedro Decima
Underrated
Julio Gervacio
Best Fight This Year
Jesus Salud KO 8
Rudy Zavala



Mexicans, **Daniel Zaragoza**, **Otilio Gallegos**, **Raul Perez**, and **Cesar Soto**, none of whom are rated by the WBA. Not wanting to be left out, the New Jersey-based IBF's top three contenders, **Kennedy McKinney**, **Jesus Salud**, and **Richard Duran**, are all Americans.

BANTAMWEIGHTS

For years, we've been lambasting supremely talented IBF champion Orlando Canizales for fighting inferior competition. Maybe he can't help it. It's difficult to tell whether the Texan is in the class of Jeff Chandler, or any of the Mexican titlists who reigned in the '70s, but at this point, he seems far superior to his contemporaries.

The WBC champion is Mexico's Victor Rabanales, who stopped Japan's exciting Joichiro Tatsuyoshi in September. The WBA king

BANTAMWEIGHT
Best Puncher
Eddie Cook
Best Boxer
Orlando Canizales
Most Protected
Bones Adams
Is He *Still* Around?
Ruben Condori
Matchmaker's Dream
Eddie Cook-Junior Jones
Best-Kept Secret
Eliecer Julio
Deserves A Title Shot
Junior Jones
Most Fun To Watch
Cecilio Espino
On The Way Down
Pepillo Valdez
Underrated
Joichiro Tatsuyoshi
Best Fight This Year
Cecilio Espino W 12
Pepillo Valdez

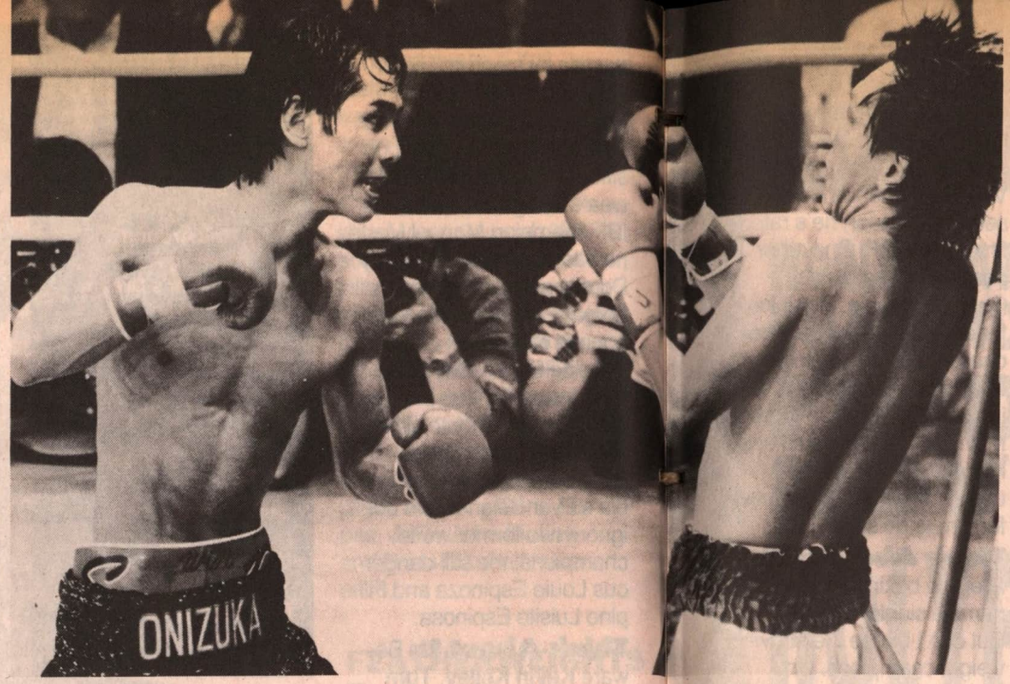
is Eddie Cook, a puncher with a questionable chin. Cook is scheduled for a mandatory defense against unbeaten Eliecer Julio in Colombia. He better not let the judges get in the way.

The first legitimate threat to Canizales is Junior Jones, an exceptionally tall and strong New Yorker. Jones is rated first by the IBF, and second by the WBA. His management would be wise to choose the safe route by passing on Canizales and taking the winner of Cook-Julio. Turns out they'll do neither. Look for Jones-Rabanales in December. Also, keep an eye on Clarence Adams, the Sean O'Grady of his generation. The highly rated "Bones" might have 100 fights before turning 20.

Think About It: IBF champion **Orlando Canizales** has made nine defenses. Not one of his victims is currently rated in *The Ring's* top 10. Moreover, he has beaten only one fighter, **Francisco Alvarez**, currently rated in the IBF's top 12.

JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHTS

If you thought the retirement of Thai legend Khaosai Galaxy was going to leave the 115-pounders in shambles, you weren't paying close attention. It's doubtful that WBC champion Sung Kil Moon will ever match Galaxy's division record of 19 successful defenses, but the South Korean has reigned for almost three years, and has replaced Galaxy in *The Ring's* pound-for-pound top 10. The quality of his opposition has been consistently strong.



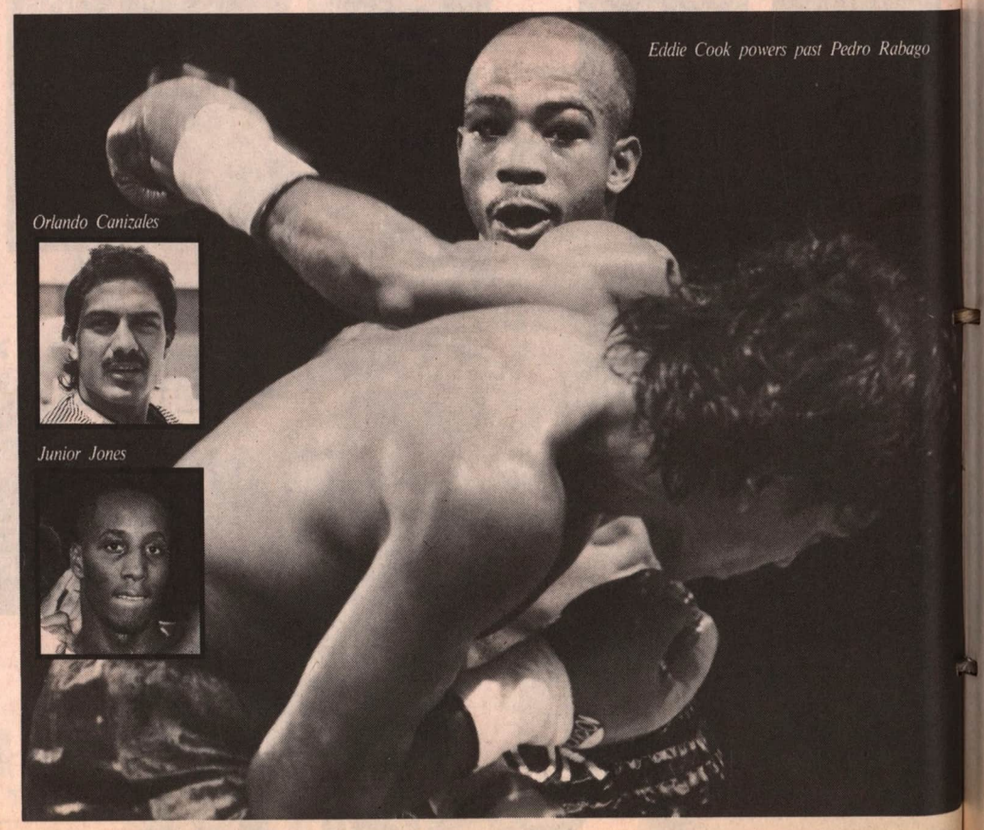
Katsuya Onizuka batters Shunichi Nakajima

IBF champion Robert Quiroga has survived several scares (Vincenzo Belcastro, Kid Akeem, Jose Ruiz). The Texan is a crowd-pleaser, but has to work so hard; five of his six title fights have gone the distance. WBA king Katsuya Onizuka is no Galaxy. In fact, most observers didn't think he beat Thalerngsak Sithbaobay in their battle for the vacant crown.

Mexico's Joel Luna Zarate, rated first by the IBF, is an immediate title threat. Also, watch for South Korea's Jung Il Byun, who has steadily advanced since staging a ring sit-in at the 1988 Olympics.

Think About It: Say what you want about the proliferation of world titles, but **Khaosai Galaxy's** division record of 19 consecutive successful defenses demands respect. He ranks third on the all-time list, behind **Joe Louis** (25) and **Larry Holmes** (20), and tied with **Henry Armstrong** and **Eusebio Pedroza**.

JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHT
Best Puncher
Sung Kil Moon
Best Boxer
Thalerngsak Sithbaobay
Most Protected
Kotaro Hayashi
Is He *Still* Around?
Kenichi Matsumura
Matchmaker's Dream
Sung Kil Moon-Robert Quiroga
Best-Kept Secret
Joel Luna Zarate
Deserves A Title Shot
Thalerngsak Sithbaobay
Most Fun To Watch
Armando Castro
On The Way Down
Rey Paciones
Underrated
Jung Il Byun
Best Fight This Year
Sung Kil Moon KO 8
Armando Salazar


Eddie Cook powers past Pedro Rabago

Orlando Canizales

Junior Jones

FLYWEIGHTS

Perhaps more than any other, this division needs a star. Recent champions Santos Laciar, Hilario Zapata, and Sot Chitalada were accomplished, but unable to lift the 112-pounders from obscurity. Maybe we won't have to wait for Michael Carbajal to fatten up; Yuri Arbachakov is young and fresh, and he scores knockouts. If the media needs another reason to embrace him, the WBC champion is boxing's first Russian-born world champion. (Can a feature in *People* be far behind?) If Arbachakov can be convinced to fight outside of his home base of Japan, he might become something more than a regional attraction.

The other champions, Rodolfo Blanco (IBF) and Yong Kang Kim (WBA), are unexceptional. But contenders Scotty Olson and Al Kotey are pure punchers. Along with Arbachakov, they could change the division's soft image.

Other notables: California's busy Isaias Zamudio, South Korea's unbeaten Yun Un Chin, and smooth-boxing Venezuelan David Griman.

Think About It: In *The Ring* ratings, the flyweight top 10 has a combined 13 losses, which ties the division with the heavyweights for first place. Tied for last place with a combined 35 losses: the cruiserweights (thanks to **Jeff Lampkin**) and the lightweights (thanks to **Freddie Pendleton**).

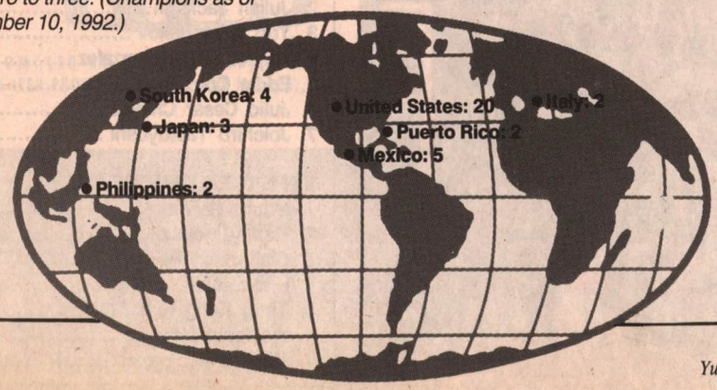
Al Kotey

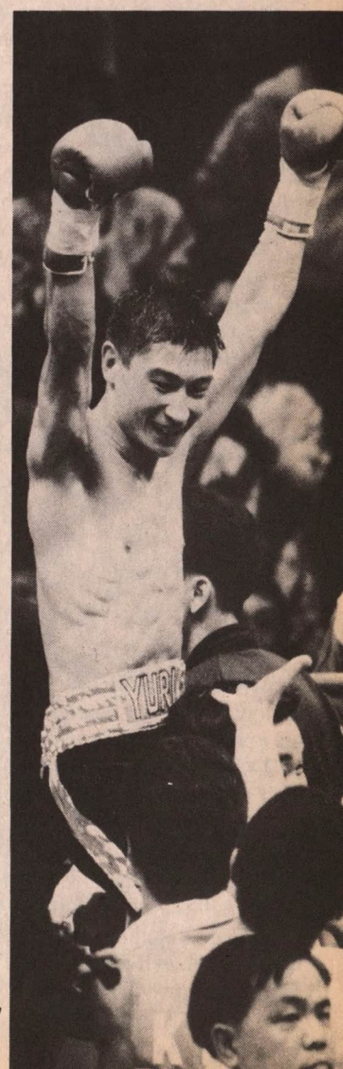
FLYWEIGHT
Best Puncher
Yuri Arbachakov
Best Boxer
David Griman
Most Protected
Cuauthemoc Gomez
Is He *Still* Around?
Dodie Penalosa
Matchmaker's Dream
Yuri Arbachakov-Al Kotey
Best-Kept Secret
Seung Koo Lee
Deserves A Title Shot
Isaias Zamudio
Most Fun To Watch
Yuri Arbachakov
On The Way Down
Rolando Pascua
Underrated
Phichit Sithbangprachan
Best Fight This Year
Yuri Arbachakov KO 8
Muangchai Kittikasem

THE CHAMPS BY COUNTRIES

The Unites States continues to lead all nations in the championship roll call. The biggest gain from one year ago was made by Japan, which went from zero to three. (Champions as of September 10, 1992.)

9 countries tied with 1:
- Ghana
- Virgin Islands
- Panama
- Colombia
- Australia
- South Africa
- England
- Conf. of Ind. States
- The Congo




Yuri Arbachakov

JUNIOR FLYWEIGHTS

If the Berlin Wall can crumble, Siegfried and Roy can make an elephant disappear, and Dan Quayle can be elected to the second highest office in the land, then there can be a big fight at 108 pounds. Negotiations have finally begun to match WBC champion Humberto "Chiquita" Gonzalez against IBF titlist Michael Carbajal. If the fight materializes, it will be the division's biggest bout since . . . well, the division has never really had a big bout.

Both champions are well-known; the charismatic Chiquita has a loyal following in Southern California, and Carbajal receives consistent television exposure. Only one problem: Carbajal has won decisions in his last six bouts. That's no way to build toward the biggest moment of his career.

JUNIOR FLYWEIGHT
Best Puncher
Humberto Gonzalez
Best Boxer
Hiroki Ioka
Most Protected
Shiro Yahiro
Is He *Still* Around?
Leo Gamez
Matchmaker's Dream
Humberto Gonzalez-Michael Carbajal
Best-Kept Secret
Kwang Sun Kim
Deserves A Title Shot
Alejandro Montiel
Most Fun To Watch
Michael Carbajal
On The Way Down
Bong Jun Kim
Underrated
Robinson Cuesta
Best Fight This Year
Humberto Gonzalez KO 12 Kwang Sun Kim

WBA champion Hiroki Ioka is a junior fly version of Maurice Blocker; he's tall and rangy, and content to stick his jab. Thrilling stuff. Otherwise, there isn't much here. Three contenders who could rise: South Korea's Kwang Sun Kim, who had Gonzalez beaten until suffering a last-round kayo, Japan's Shiro Yahiro, and Panama's top-rated Robinson Cuesta.

Think About It: The 108-pound class has always provided the game with some odd statistics. In June, **Kwang Sun Kim** fought for the WBC title in his *sixth* pro fight. Better yet, in September 1975, **Rafael Lovera** made his *pro debut* in a title fight against Venezuela's **Luis Estaba**. A couple more: In July 1976, **Juan Guzman** won the WBA crown, and then proceeded to lose eight of his remaining nine fights; and in May 1984, **Francisco Quiroz** challenged for the WBA title with a record of 9-9-1—and kayoed **Lupe Madera**!

STRAWWEIGHTS

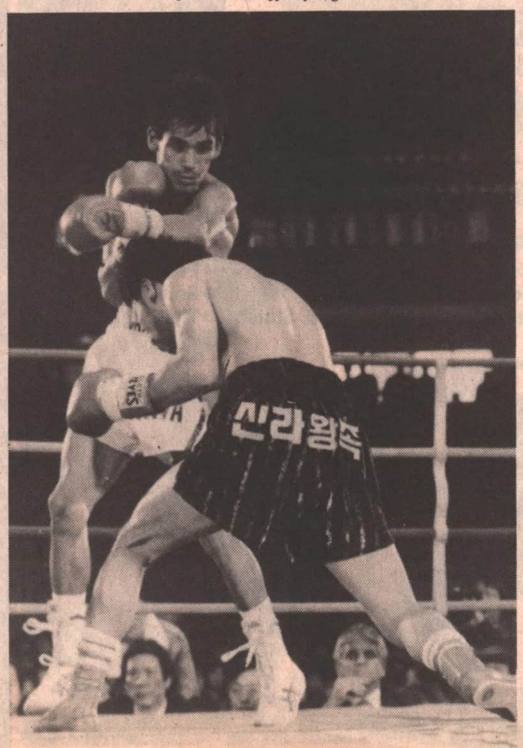
There's only one way the 105-pounders would receive any exposure in the United States: If the Great Western Forum decided to bring outstanding WBC champion Ricardo Lopez up from Mexico. But don't expect it to happen. On the other side of the world, Filipino Manny Melchor recently won the IBF title by dethroning Phalan Lukmingkwan. The latter had made seven successful defenses. A Melchor-Lopez unification match is about as likely as Mark Gastineau being crowned heavyweight champion. WBA titlist Hi Yong Choi is also a strong entry. He's a relatively old 27, but has had only 14 pro bouts, and has been improving.

STRAWWEIGHT
Best Puncher
Hideyuki Ohashi
Best Boxer
Ricardo Lopez
Most Protected
Chana Porpaoin
Is He *Still* Around?
Kyung Yun Lee
Matchmaker's Dream
Ricardo Lopez-Ala Villamor
Best-Kept Secret
Carlos Murillo
Deserves A Title Shot
Ala Villamor
Most Fun To Watch
Phalan Lukmingkwan
On The Way Down
Pretty Boy Lucas
Underrated
Kermin Guardia
Best Fight This Year
Manny Melchor W 12 Phalan Lukmingkwan

There aren't a lot of frightening contenders. The best of the top 10 seems to be Filipino Ala Villamor, but we said that last year, too. Villamor's chance would seem to be near; he's rated first by the IBF. One other possibility: Thailand's Chana Porpaoin. Don't look for any Americans here because there isn't a single one in the world ratings. IBF junior flyweight champion Michael Carbajal could easily make the weight, but there's no financial incentive for him to do so.

Think About It: The average boxing fan can't name a single 105-pounder. But don't blame the strawweight champions. Until **Manny Melchor's** upset of **Phalan Lukmingkwan**, the division's leaders, **Hi Yong Choi** (WBA), **Ricardo Lopez** (WBC), and **Lukmingkwan** (IBF), had reigned longer than the titlists of any other weight class. Choi was crowned in February 1991. From that point until Melchor-Lukmingkwan, every other division except heavyweight— which has only one champion—has seen at least one title change. ■

Ricardo Lopez wards off Kyung Yun Lee



THE POWERPUNCHERS AND THE FEATHERFISTS

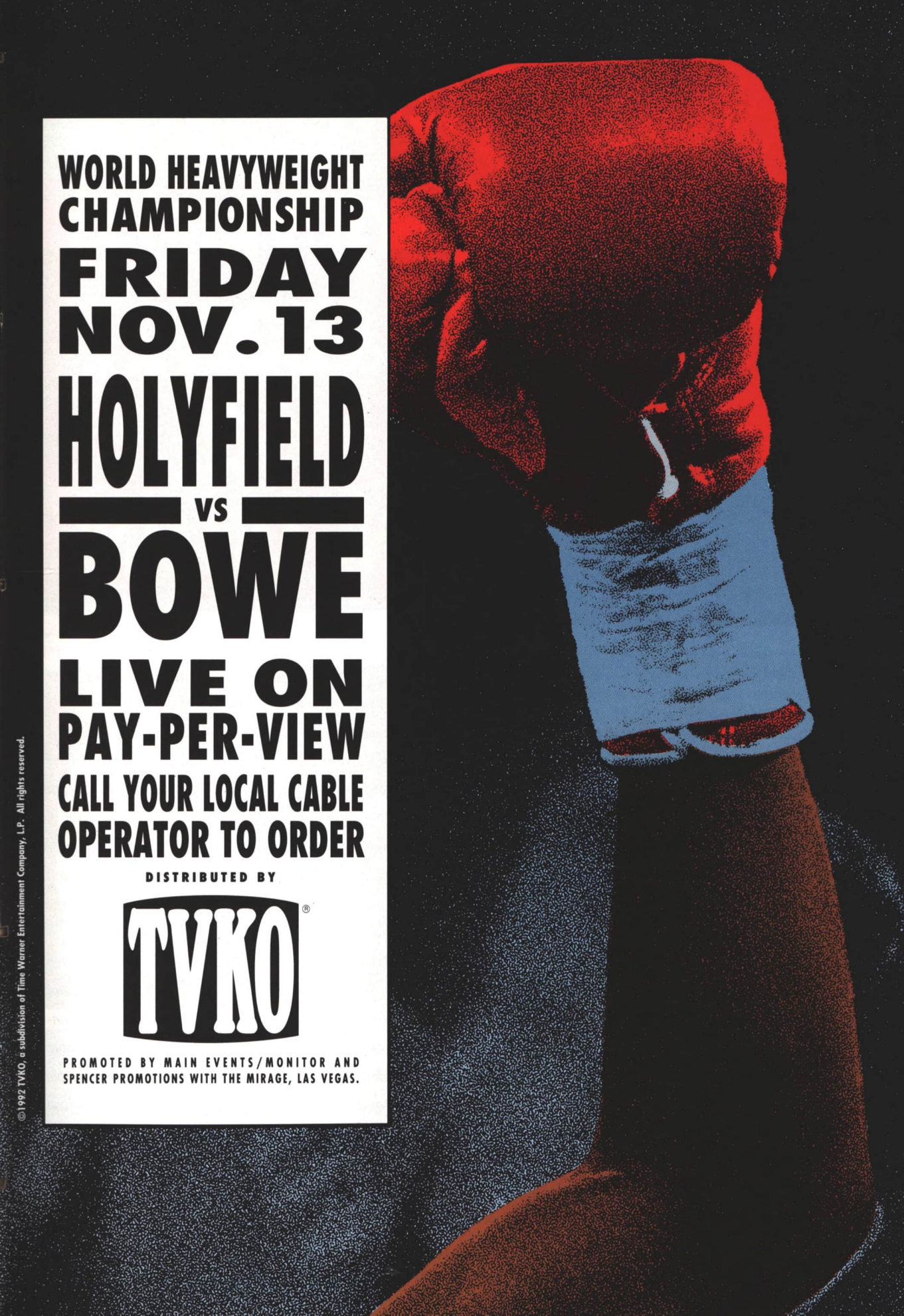
Statistically, at least, these are boxing's hardest- and lightest-hitting champions. (We computed their kayo percentages by dividing knockouts by total wins.)

THE POWERPUNCHERS

1. Paul Hodkinson	.950
2. Julian Jackson	.933
3. Yuri Arbachakov	.923
4. Miguel Angel Gonzalez	.920
5. Eddie Cook	.889
6. Julio Cesar Chavez	.864
7. Joichiro Tatsuyoshi	.857

THE FEATHERFISTS

1. Mauro Galvano	.190
2. Manny Melchor	.250
3. Gianfranco Rosi	.304
4. Hiroki Ioka	.429
5. Yong Kang Kim	.440
6. Welcome Ncita	.452
7. Manuel Medina	.452


WORLD HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPIONSHIP
FRIDAY NOV. 13
HOLYFIELD
VS
BOWE
LIVE ON PAY-PER-VIEW
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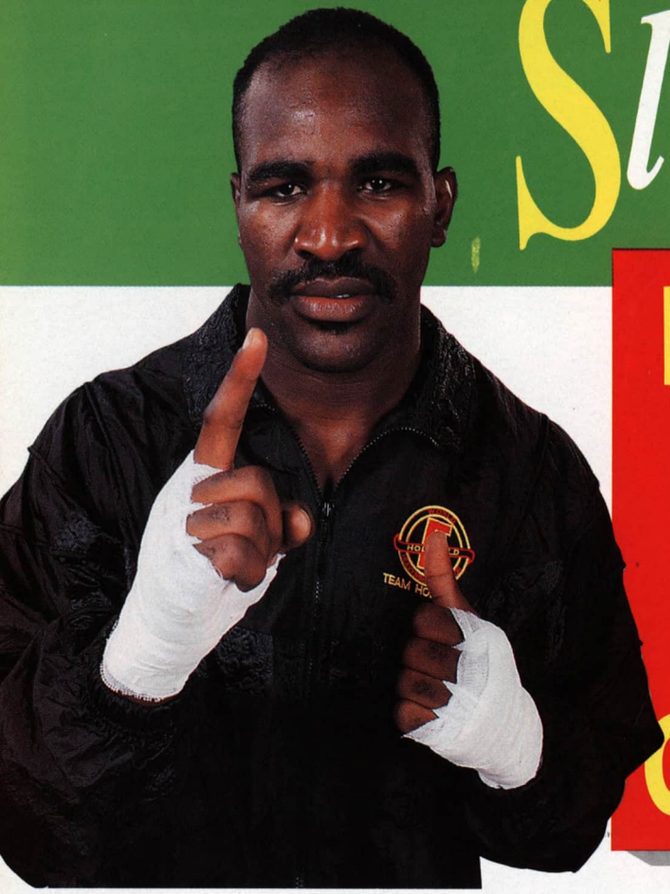
Slammin' n' Jammin'



HOLYFIELD & BOWE GO ONE ON ONE

By Robert Cassidy

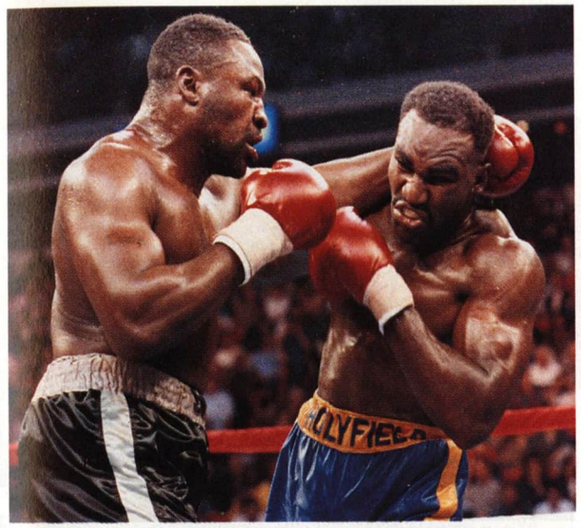
Okay, basketball fans, you had your March Madness, which culminated with the Duke Blue Devils turning back the Fab Five Freshmen from Michigan to become the first repeat national champions since UCLA in 1973. That was when the Bruins had a shaggy redhead named Bill Walton sinking sky hooks. On a different playing field, heavyweight champion George Foreman was sinking all comers with left hooks.

Since then, Walton and Foreman have gone through some radical changes. So, too, has boxing. It took an unlikely comeback by Foreman to jump-start the sport. His unsuccessful, yet spirited, challenge of champion Evander Holyfield was responsible for record-breaking pay-per-view numbers and a newfound popularity for boxing. But with the Seniors Tour (talk about fifth-year seniors!) nearing an end, it's time to find out the Real Deal among today's heayweights.

So, boxing fans, we give you Fall Frenzy, the heavyweight version of the Final Four. Undisputed champion Holyfield, the number-one seed in the South, will meet unbeaten challenger Riddick Bowe, the number-one seed out of the East. The winner will be matched against the winner of Razor Ruddock-Lennox Lewis, just in time for March Madness 1993. Fittingly, Holyfield-Bowe, scheduled for November 13, will take place at the Thomas & Mack Center on the campus of the University of Nevada-Las Vegas, where Jerry Tarkanian used to chew on towels while watching his Runnin' Rebels spit out the competition.

In Holyfield-Bowe, we have a Duke-Michigan rematch of sorts. With nerves of steel and a technically sound attack, Holyfield, like Duke, is the experienced and conservative champion. With a ton of talent and even more self-confidence, Heir Bowe, like Michigan, plays the role of the young, brash challenger. Here's what you can expect after the tip-off:

When Holyfield has the ball . . . Look for a full-court press. The Runnin' Rebels of UNLV electrified their fans at the Thomas & Mack Center by employing suffocating and frenetic man-to-man pressure. Holyfield will have to execute the same game plan. Bowe has never been forced



Holyfield had some difficulty vs. Bert Cooper (above). Pierre Coetzer brawled with Bowe (below). The South African lacked the power, however, to hurt him.

Ron Katz, matchmaker for Top Rank: Bowe stops Holyfield somewhere in the first five or six rounds. I've always thought Holyfield was a solid fighter, but not really a top-notch fighter. Bowe is young and hungry, and he can punch.

to fight at the accelerated pace Holyfield is capable of setting, so the champion will be well-served by smothering his foe with combinations and constant aggression. Bowe needs room to punch. By staying on top of the challenger, Holyfield can negate his power. Holyfield, described as the best-conditioned athlete in the world, will need to be

Angelo Dundee, trainer: I like Bowe. I think it will be a good fight, but I don't think Holyfield has the guns to keep the other guy off him. Holyfield also has to live with the stigma of not being a real heavyweight. Bowe is a real heavyweight, and he's strong. It'll go the route, and Bowe will win.

in peak condition to sustain such an attack. When Larry Holmes went into a four-corner stall, Holyfield sat back. He can't afford such a lapse against a young and strong fighter like Bowe.

When Bowe has the ball . . . With advantages in height and reach, Bowe is deadly from the perimeter. If Holy-

George Foreman, former heavyweight champion: Bowe will jump out to a fast start and win the first six rounds. He'll make Evander be the aggressor, and Evander gets in trouble when he has to hunt guys down. I don't see a knockout, though. Bowe will win a unanimous decision.

field allows him to, he'll sit outside and shoot lefts and rights from three-point range all night long. Giving new meaning to the term power forward, Bowe fires his punches with bad intentions. Like most tall, rangy fighters, he needs to create a comfortable distance. He'll accomplish that with his jab, which sets his entire offense into motion. If Bowe is able to find the mark with his jab, he'll eventually slam dunk Holyfield with his right cross.

On Defense . . . No zones here. This is strictly *mano-a-mano*. Holyfield prefers to fast break, and Team Bowe will need its best defensive effort to stop him. But Bowe doesn't feature a world-class defense. He pulls back from punches, rather than slipping or blocking them, and he's been tagged by some Division II heavyweights like Tyrell Biggs, Pierre Coetzer, and Bigfoot Martin.

Holyfield has been known to give up a three-pointer in order to score a few layups. His chin, as exploited by Bert Cooper, is suspect. When the clock reads 00:00, though, he's always scored more times than the opposition. But his porous defense can be exposed by a patient and steady attack.

The Tempo . . . Neither man will run and gun. If Holyfield establishes control, this war will be waged in the paint. Holyfield likes it physical, and he'll sprinkle plenty of bodypunches into his combinations. If Bowe is able to set the tempo, he'll bomb from outside until Holyfield can be taken out cleanly. If the judges' totals start getting into the 70s and 80s, Bowe's chances for victory will start to decline.

A high-scoring contest will suit Holyfield. He's already said he would prefer a 12-round fight, and if he can raise his point total to the 115-117 range, he'll win. If the fight is close in crunch time, look for Holyfield's experience to help him pull away. His team, like a bunch of court-wise seniors, has been there before.

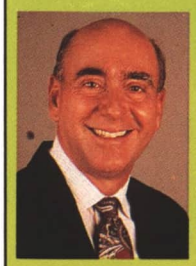
Tony Curtis, matchmaker & director of boxing at the Great Western Forum: Most boxing people have Bowe running over Holyfield. I don't see it that way. I think it will be a very tough, hard-fought fight. But I have to go with Holyfield's experience. Holyfield will win a close decision.

Gil Clancy, boxing analyst for CBS and MSG: This fight is no cinch to pick. Bowe could give Holyfield trouble with his right uppercut; that will be the key punch of the fight. But I like Holyfield because of his experience and combination punching. He may even stop Bowe in the late rounds.

When Larry Holmes stalled, Holyfield maintained his work rate. The champion has proven that no matter how quick the pace, he can punch for all 12 rounds.

The Coaches . . . This is like Bobby Knight matching X's and O's with Mike Krzyzewski, who played for Knight at Army and was his assistant at Indiana. After George Benton retired from the ring, he spent a lot of years standing silently in the fabled Philadelphia boxing gyms, watching Eddie Futch, the master, teach young fighters the intricacies of the sweet science. For Ali-Frazier III, Futch was "Smokin' Joe's" chief second, while Benton served as his assistant. On November 13, Futch, the teacher, will be in Bowe's corner, while Benton, the student, will be in Holyfield's.

GET A *TKO*, BABY



For the ultimate prediction, we consulted America's foremost expert on Final Fours, ESPN college basketball analyst Dick Vitale.

"All four of these heavyweights, Evander Holyfield, Riddick Bowe, Lennox Lewis, and Razor Ruddock, are quality fighters. But Holyfield-Bowe is going to be like Duke-Indiana. They are the real heavyweights.

"Holyfield hasn't been challenged by someone as competitive as Bowe, and I wouldn't call him a dominant champion. But I think he's going to rise to the occasion. It's going to be his night. He'll prove to be a P-T-P, baby, a Prime Time Player. He'll be the Michael Jordan of the night and send Riddick Bowe to the sidelines.

"Even though Holyfield has been going the distance lately, I'm going to pick him to win by TKO in the 11th round."—**RC**

Instead of slipping punches, Bowe often pulls back, as he demonstrated against Tony Tubbs. The challenger's defense will have to be sharp vs. Holyfield.

Turnovers . . . Suffice to say there is little margin for error in a heavyweight championship fight. Bowe will be asked to stay focused for the entire bout. He'll have to be

(Continued on page 67)

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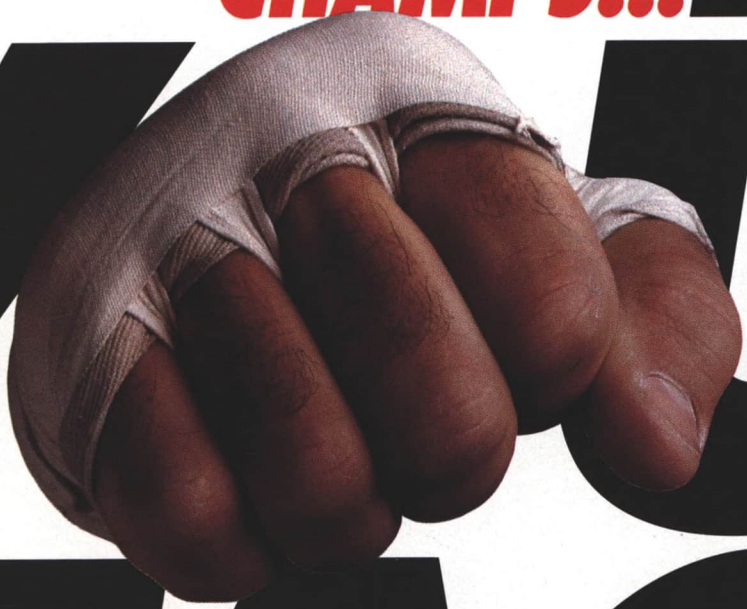

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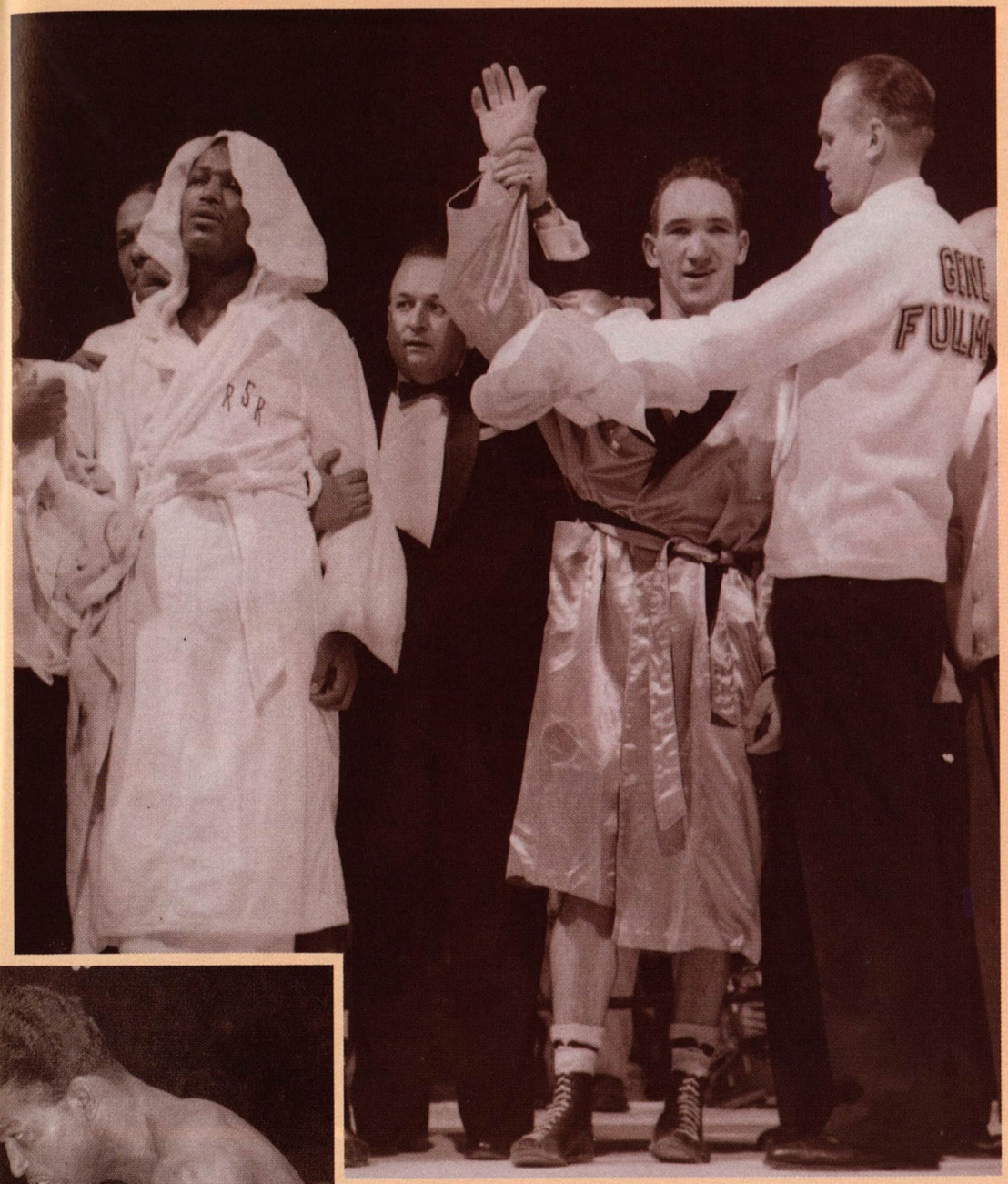
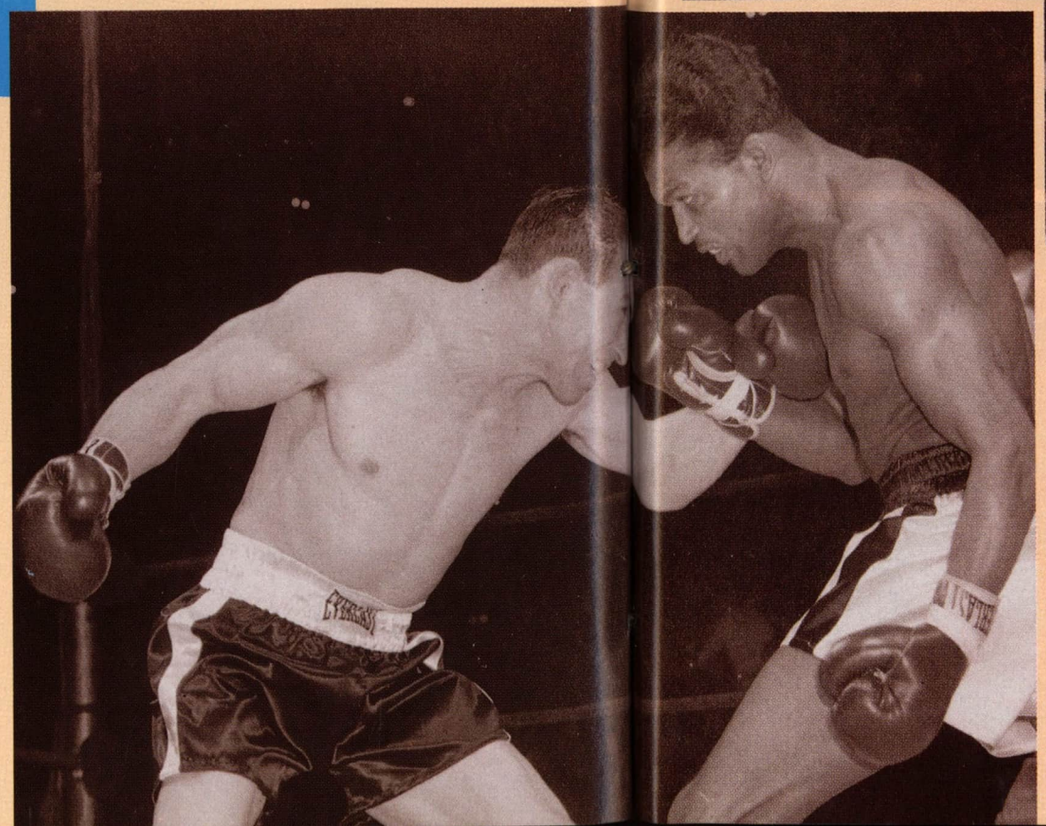
CARMEN BASILIO

Welterweight Champion Of The World
Title Reigns: 1955-1956; 1956-1957
Middleweight Champion Of The World
Title Reign: 1957-1958

A Happy Boxing Story

GENE FULLMER LOOKS BACK WITH A SMILE





Fullmer's career highlight came in January 1957, when he convincingly outbattled living legend Sugar Ray Robinson (left) and captured the world middleweight title by unanimous 15-round decision (above).

By Ed Maloney

Legendary light heavyweight champion Archie Moore sat in the clubhouse of the Canastota Country Club in New York during the annual International Boxing Hall of Fame Induction Weekend. He was reminiscing about the careers of the former champions who had gathered.

"There are a lot of great stories out there," he said, glancing out the window at his brethren, who were mingling with the huge crowd of fans on the patio. Then, in a melancholy tone, he added, "There are some sad ones, too."

Thankfully, not all of boxing's former champions are suffering from the effects of a brutal career in the ring, and hard-hitting fiscal mismanagement outside of it. Former two-time middleweight champion Gene Fullmer is one of the few lucky ones.

There have been many great athletes in American history, but only a few have been reared from the crib with the goal of athletic sainthood in mind. Baseball legend Mickey Mantle was one. Fullmer, now 61, is another. Gene's mother, Mary, was an avid boxing fan, and named her first son after heavyweight champion Gene Tunney. The fighting bloodlines were received from his father. During the '20s, Tuff Fullmer (no one ever called him Larry or Lawrence) earned a reputation as a successful streetfighter in the small copper mining town of West Jordan, Utah. Just 12 miles south of the Great Salt Lake, West Jordan is on the outskirts of Salt Lake City, the Mormon heartland, where Brigham Young and his followers settled in the 1840s.

Fullmer's younger brothers, Jay and Don, were also professional fighters. Jay is a bailiff in Salt Lake County. Don, a top-10 middleweight during the '60s— he lost a 15-round decision to world champion Nino Benvenuti—works as a fireman in West Jordan. (He is presently recovering from a chimney fall, in which he broke his leg in *35* places. "He's had several operations on it," said Gene. "At one point the doctors considered amputation, but they think he's going to be okay.")

Fullmer was raised a Mormon and became active in The

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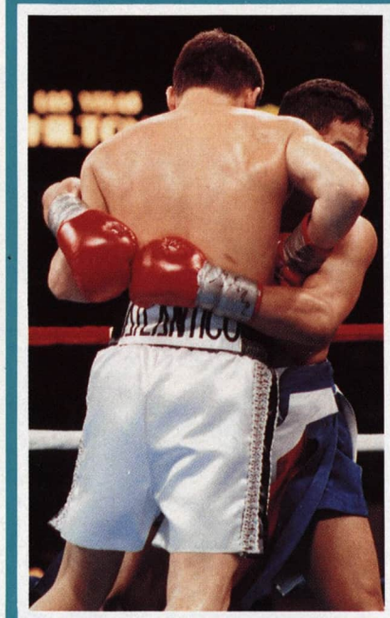

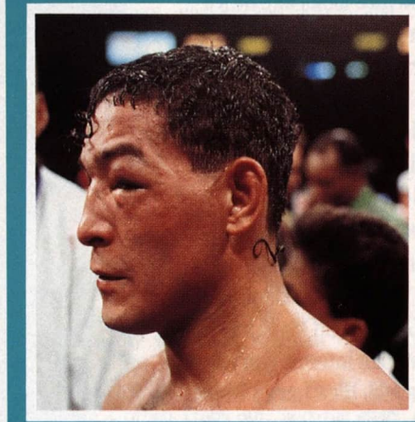

By the late rounds, Chavez' considerable infighting skills and lead right hands turned Camacho into a one-eyed fighter who was desperate to stall and clinch.

Photos By David Lee Waite

The Perfect Opposite

WHY CHAVEZ IS WHAT CAMACHO SHOULD HAVE BEEN

By Joseph C. Tintle

As Hector "Macho" Camacho was about to fight Julio Cesar Chavez, the look on his face revealed a lonely and frightened man. Camacho's dark eyes, usually mischievous and playful, were mild. Gone was any glint of viciousness. And every time his lips began to quiver, he shouted "Macho Man!" to convince himself, and the ringsiders, that he did not fear the great and mighty Chavez. But the bravado hardly concealed Camacho's concern.

During those moments, it looked as if Camacho might have realized what critics have long been saying: that he wasted his God-given talent years ago by attending too many late-night parties and too few gyms.

Emerging from the other dressing room at the Thomas & Mack Center in Las Vegas was Chavez. He was cool. *Very* cool. All ring assassins are. When a security guard tried to hold back one of his cornermen, Chavez interceded— but did not let the disturbance bother him. There was business to attend to. And anyone who has followed Chavez' career knows that the man is all business.

The main event that followed was billed as "Ultimate Glory," but what transpired was a fight between WBC super lightweight champion Chavez, who has fulfilled his potential, and Camacho, who has never come close to realizing his. Chavez, the 9-2 favorite, won a unanimous decision. Dalby Shirley scored 117-111, Carol Castellano 119-110, and Harry Gibbs 120-107. *The Ring* scored 120-108 for Chavez. The referee was Richard Steele.

For 12 rounds, the 30-year-old champion from Mexico never took his malignant stare off Camacho. He battered the challenger with both hands, keeping the promise he'd made to his countrymen. Mexicans everywhere loathe Macho, and wherever Chavez traveled, they beseeched their national hero to do more than just win; they wanted him to give the churlish Camacho a beating that he would never forget. And if one thing inspires Chavez, it is his sense of nationalism.

"I have dedicated the fight to the president and the people of Mexico," he said before the match. Then he added with a smile, "They will lynch me if I lose."

Chavez never came close to losing because Camacho's strategy of lateral movement, jabbing, and getting off quick combinations never worked. Chavez' style was too much to handle. He moved forward at all times, digging his hook into Camacho's liver and abdomen, and landing right hands on Macho's spit curl, which dangled invitingly from the challenger's forehead.

In past fights, Chavez had started slowly. But this time, his pressure tactics were evident early on. Camacho either had no time to clown around, or simply forgot to.

(Continued on page 54)

A Day To Remember

THE DRAMATIC MEETING OF SULLIVAN AND FITZSIMMONS

Readers of *The Boston Globe* were shocked when they saw the three column-wide photograph glaring at them from the sports page on that warm spring day in 1904.

No. That can't be John L. That man sitting on the bed in the picture looks like he's a hundred years old. No, it can't be him.

But it *was* the Great John L. Sullivan. And he did look, well, maybe not 100, more like 80. How old is he *really*? Only 45. Incredible.

The sports editor of *The Globe* could smell a great human interest story from across the Charles River. And when he learned that reigning light heavyweight champion Robert Fitzsimmons was in town, he immediately arranged a meeting between Fitz and Boston's most idolized hero since Paul Revere.

The dramatic photograph and accompanying text is reproduced exactly as originally published in *The Boston Globe* on April 1, 1904.

Stanley Weston
Publisher, *The Ring*

THE BOSTON GLOBE—FRIDAY, APRIL 1, 190[illegible]

OLD KINGS OF THE PRIZE RING MET.

Visit of Fitz, the Athlete of 41, to John L., the Wreck Of 45, Was Full of Pathos.

FITZ AND JOHN L. SAYING GOOD-BY.

Two former monarchs of the prize ring met yesterday under rather pathetic circumstances. They were John L. Sullivan, Boston's greatest [illegible] idol, and Robert J. Fitzsimmons, one of the [illegible] in the history of fistiana.

The meeting of the ex-champions was an embarrassing one. The great John L., perhaps the most picturesque character that ever graced the prize ring—battered and wrecked from disease and the excesses of high living, lay in a bed at the home of his sister, Mrs. Lennon, at 87 Brook Avenue, Roxbury. The once-mighty gladiator had lost all of his old-time vim and vigor.

Add to his general ill health, the spectacle of the former great fighter looking through a pair of deep blue goggles, and the picture of the broken-down athlete with monstrous flowing mustache of white, and his white hair, and the picture of dejectment and physical wreck is complete.

A glance at the form propped up by pillows in the house that years ago he presented to his sister, and then one at his visitor of yesterday noon, furnished material for deep consideration.

The one was a broken-down man, almost still in the prime of life—for Sullivan is only 45; the other a robust, agile athlete, still ready to do battle with the most aspiring young men in the boxing world. (Fitzsimmons, according to his own statement, is 42.) One has lived a quiet, careful life, the other has tasted the sweets too often.

Hardly had Fitz reached Boston early in the week when he learned that John L. was sick and penniless. It was a *Globe* man who informed Fitz that Sullivan was prostrate, and Fitzsimmons begged to be taken to the bedside of his old-time friend. So yesterday morning a carriage called at Fitz' hotel, and the ex-champion with his manager, Joseph Edmonston, and a few friends climbed in and were driven to the house which Sullivan now calls home.

The party was ushered in by Sullivan's sister, and the visitors were asked to meet the great John L. in his chamber. The bright sunlight was shut out by closely drawn curtains. Then in deep, guttural tones from the bed came a hearty "Hello, Bob!"

There was no mistaking the owner of that thunderous voice. Fitz, wearing a neat-fitting frock coat and glittering tall hat, strode over to the bedside and grasped the big hand extended toward him. The two great fighters were visibly affected. Sullivan raised himself on his elbow and looked steadily at Fitz through his glasses for some few seconds. "How are you, John?" said Fitz when the big fellow showed signs of relaxing his vicelike grip.

After the prostrate Sullivan had shaken hands with the others, he laid back again against the pillows, while Fitz took a seat on the side of his bed, at his feet, where he could converse with Sully without inconveniencing the latter. Fitz was careful to see that John did not suffer in any way, even going so far as to tuck the bed clothing closely around the sick man.

After the first few words, an embarrassing silence ensued, for no one cared about broaching the question of the ex-champion's sickness. But he soon broke the silence by saying, "You see, I'm down and out, but I'll soon be up and around in a few days. My stomach has sort of played me mean, and my eyes have quit me, too.

"I tell you, Bob, a fellow can't play with the kind of water I've been up against and still hope to be there. But at that, I guess, I've gained some weight since I've been here, for although I can only take milk and water, with a dash or two of salt—the salt gives the thing a flavor, y'see—it has built me up. Then I smoke a good deal, and d___d if the pipe ain't as good as eating and drinking to me."

"Well, John, I don't see but what you're all right. Why, they told me that you were an invalid and all broke up. I can't see anything the matter with you, and if it wasn't for those things on your eyes, you'd look as good as ever."

That was where Fitz executed a corking feint, for it drew John L. out, and he was in line to deliver a perfect volley of funny, grave, and characteristic remarks.

In a deep, gutteral voice, John L. replied, "Bob, there's nothing to it. I'll be around all right in a little while, and then it's Baden Springs, Hot Springs, or some other sulphur bath for me.

"I've been taking two or three kinds of medicine since I came home here to my sister's, but I'm going to quit taking the stuff in a day or two. It's no good.

"I never did believe much in medicine. This world is all a 'con' anyway. Why, they talk about religion, and heaven and hell. What do they know about heaven and hell? They never were there, and no one ever came back and told us what they were like."

"I think when a guy croaks he just dies, and that's all there is to him. They bury some of them, but they won't plant me. When I go," the big fellow faltered, "they'll burn me.

"That's the game for me, Bob! Cremation, that's what they call it. Nothin' left but your ashes, and each of your friends can have some of you to remember you by. It's the most natural thing in the world—let them burn you up when you're all in. I tell you it's the proper thing."

The logic of Sullivan did not meet with the approval of Fitzsimmons, and quite a lengthy discussion followed on the merits of the subject.

Fitz was becoming more at ease and talked more freely. His natural antipathy toward Jim Corbett crept out, and the man who whipped the man who beat Sullivan said he would box Corbett four or six rounds at Sullivan's benefit, and he did not want a cent for his services.

Sullivan then chinned in that Corbett—"Well, Bob, he licked me and beat me on the level."

"Yes, John, but you were not yourself then. Why, I remember, I sat at the ringside, and if you remember, you nearly nailed him in the very first round. I don't think I will ever forget it. It was with a right swing, and just missed him by an eighth of an inch.

"Lord, but it was a wallop, and if it ever landed, there would have been no more of Corbett. It came so close to landing right here"—and Fitz pointed out the spot on his own chin—"that I pulled my own head back, and it struck a fellow sitting in the chair behind me in the face.

"But Corbett pulled his head back, too," said Fitz, almost sorrowfully.

And so the talk went on for over an hour.

Fitzsimmons inquired about the proposed benefit which is to be tendered Sullivan. He promised his old friend, who is now in needy circumstances, that he could count on him to come over and do what he could do to help the old fellow along at his benefit. Fitz thought it would be a good card for him to box someone four or six rounds, and said, "If we could only get Corbett to come over and spar with me, wouldn't it be great?" But John said that such a thing was impossible in this city now.

(Continued on page 54)

Fitzsimmons and Sullivan say goodbye at the end of their emotional meeting. Astonishingly, the Great John L. lived another 14 years (many actively), and outlived Fitzsimmons by almost four months. Fitz was 54 when he died on October 22, 1917; Sullivan was 59 when laid to rest on February 2, 1918.

Summary

HEAVYWEIGHTS
Alex Stewart KO 10 Marshall Tillman
Tim Witherspoon W 10 Tony Willis
Tony Tucker W 10 Bigfoot Martin
Francesco Damiani W 10 Greg Page
Lionel Butler KO 1 Tony Tubbs
Alex Garcia KO 2 Arthur Weathers
Carl Williams W 10 Ossie Ocasio
Corrie Sanders W 10 Mike Evans
Boris Powell KO 3 George Harris
Pinklon Thomas W 10 Danny Wofford
Pinklon Thomas KO 1 James Smith
Pinklon Thomas KO 1 Bobby Jones
Rocky Pepeli KO 4 Mike Gans
Lyle McDowell KO 7 Michael Arms

CRUISERWEIGHTS
Robert Daniels KO 2 Eddie Curry
Michael Greer W 10 Frankie Swindell
Norbert Ekassi KO 3 Johnny Nelson

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
Randall Yonker KO 10 Larry Prather
Anthony Hembrick KO 4 Earl Butler
Andrew Maynard KO 4 Jeff McCall
Victor Potemkhin W 10 Mike Peak

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Michael Nunn W 12 Victor Cordoba
(Wins WBA Title)
Mauro Galvano W 10 Eduardo Peralta
(Non-Title Bout)
Vincenzo Nardiello W 6 Kenny Snow
John Scully KO 6 Herman Farrar
John Scully KO 3 Danny Chapman
Melvin Wynn W 10 Gerald Coleman

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
James Toney W 12 Mike McCallum
(Retains IBF Title)
Roy Jones KO 8 Glen Thomas
Bernard Hopkins KO 1 James Stokes
Gilbert Baptist KO 9 Art Serwano
Gilbert Baptist KO 1 Jaime Montano
Tyrone Trice KO 4 Bill Bradley
Alex Hilton W 10 Tim Denty
Ian Garrett W 12 Roosevelt Walker

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Julio Cesar Vasquez W Disq. 2 David McCluskey
Jorge Castro KO 1 Danny Vargas
Grahame Cheney W 12 Hector Vilte
Ronald Wright KO 2 Carlos Weaver-Santana
John Armijo KO 10 Arnold Williams
Danny Chavez W 12 Ernie Valentine

WELTERWEIGHTS
Maurice Blocker W 12 Luis Garcia
(Retains IBF Title)
Buddy McGirt W 10 Oscar Ponce
(Non-Title Bout)
Yori Boy Campas KO 1 Luciano Torres
Edwin Rosario KO 5 George Kellman
Buck Smith KO 5 Anthony Montano
Buck Smith KO 5 Kevin Johnson
Wilber Kiggundu KO 8 Wil Hernandez
Rusty DeRouen W 10 Bobby Butters

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS
Julio Cesar Chavez W 12 Hector Camacho
(Retains WBC Title)
Morris East KO 11 Akinobu Hiranaka
(Wins WBA Title)
Morris East KO 9 Dindo Canoy
Carlos Gonzalez W Disq. 2 Jose Rodriguez
Juan Coggi KO 6 Eduardo Jacques
Charles Murray KO 5 Jerry Smith
Kostya Tszyu KO 7 Daniel Cusato
Ricky Meyers D 10 Carl Griffith
Angel Hernandez KO 4 Juan Carlos Nunez
David Kamau KO 7 Danny Perez
Courtney Hooper KO 3 Robert Vasquez
Rocky Balboa W 10 Tim Brooks
Jose Castro W 10 Gilbert Flores
Fidel Avendano KO 4 Eduardo Jacques
Vinnie Letizia KO 1 Jackie Beard

LIGHTWEIGHTS
Miguel Angel Gonzalez KO 10 Wilfredo Rocha
(Wins Vacant WBC Title)
Tracy Spann Tech. Draw 2 Fred Pendleton
(For Vacant IBF Title)
Jorge Paez KO 6 Brian Brown
Rafael Ruelas KO 1 Ben Dominguez
Jean-Baptiste Mendy W 12 Angel Mona
Dingaan Thobela KO 9 Peter Till
Kelcie Banks W 6 Leo Mujarez
Fabian Tejeda W 12 Ricardo Silva

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS
Yuji Watanabe KO 2 Steve Cruz
Gabe Ruelas W 10 Ismael Diaz
Jimmi Bredahl W 12 Daniel Londas
Wilson Rodriguez W 12 Eugene Burchak
George Parra KO 2 Idelfonso Bernal
Pedro Arroyo KO 1 Eddy Denis Moran

FEATHERWEIGHTS
Paul Hodkinson KO 10 Fabrice Benichou
(Retains WBC Title)
Yung Kyun Park W 12 Giovanni Nieves
(Retains WBA Title)
Kevin Kelley W 10 Antonio Hernandez
Jesse James Leija W 10 Jesus Poll
Ever Beleno KO 2 Manuel Mejia
Luisito Espinosa W 10 Eduardo Rojas
Eun Sik Lee KO 1 Edwin Gonzalez
Fernando Rodriguez W 12 Troy Fletcher

JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHTS
Luis Mendoza KO 4 Avencio Gonzalez

BANTAMWEIGHTS
Eliecer Julio KO 6 Jose Portillo
Junior Jones W 10 Max Gomez
Candelario Carmona W Disq. 1 Javier Leon

JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHTS
Katsuya Onizuka KO 5 Kenichi Matsumura
(Retains WBA Title)
Samuel Duran W 12 Jerry Penalosa
Johnny Bredahl W 12 Jose Quirino
Juan Polo Perez KO 5 Manuel Ariza
Miguel Mercedes KO 8 Brian Lonon
Jung Il Byun W 10 Rey Paciones

FLYWEIGHTS
Yun Un Chin KO 7 Melchor Cob Castro
David Griman KO 6 Edison Torres

JUNIOR FLYWEIGHTS
Humberto Gonzalez KO 2 Napa Kiatwanchai
(Retains WBC Title)
Michael Carbajal W 10 Jorge Luis Roman
(Non-Title Bout)
Yuichi Hosono KO 2 Jae Won Kim

STRAWWEIGHTS
Manny Melchor W 12 Phalan Lukmingkwan
(Wins IBF Title)
Ricardo Lopez KO 5 Singprasert Kittikasem
(Retains WBC Title)
Napa Kiatwanchai KO 3 Victor Gestpa

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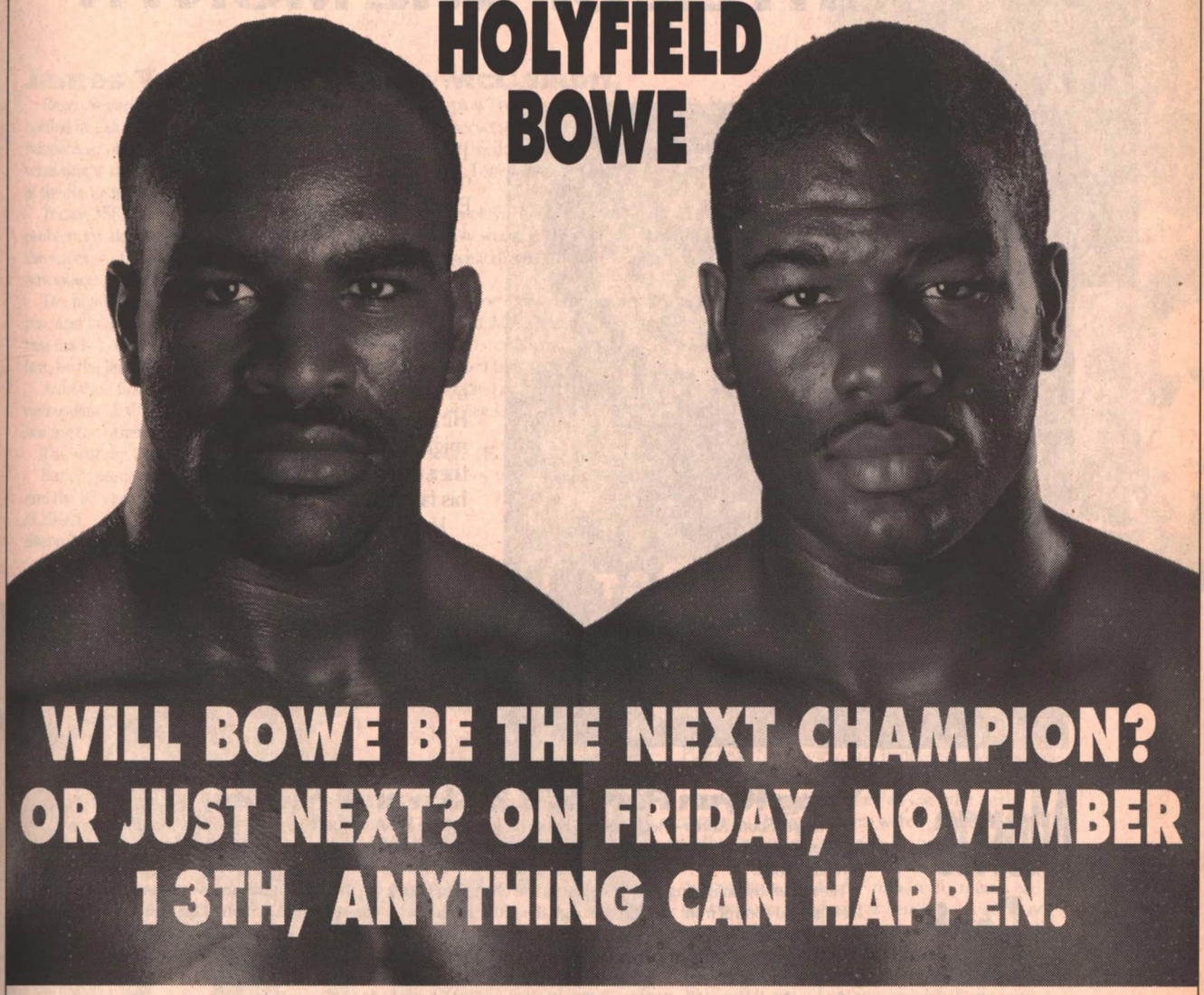

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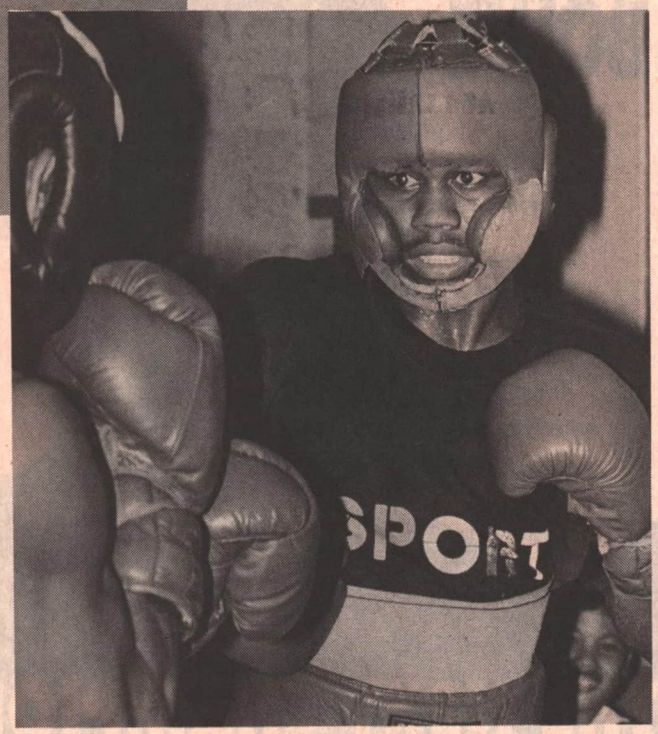
Ringside Reports

FIGHTER OF THE MONTH



As detailed in the November 1992 issue of *The Ring*, 19-year-old junior welterweight Morris East is in search of his father. John East, an American sailor serving in the Philippines, abandoned his family the year East was born. The fighter's quest took a positive turn in September, when he won the WBA title by knocking out Akinobu Hiranaka. East's new status might not help him locate his father, but it could certainly help his father locate him.

Here's hoping this boxing story has a happy ending.

Morris East

Yung Kyun Park W 12 Giovanni Nieves,

Kyungju, South Korea—Reckless bull Park, 125½, kept the WBA featherweight title for the fifth time as he overpowered durable Venezuelan Nieves, 124¾, eking out a close but unanimous decision at the Hyundai Hotel.

Nieves, whose infighting style is similar to the champion's, took the initiative in the first two rounds. Park gained control from the third through the sixth, scoring with non-stop combinations. Over the second half of the bout, the challenger, 13-3 (8), tried to move and box. He was initially successful, but Park, 23-1-1 (14), charged forward in the last two rounds and cemented his victory. (In the 12th, Park suffered a gash over the right eye.)

Scores: Larry Rozadilla (USA) and Elias Quintana (USA), both 116-113; Oscar Perez (Dominican Republic), 115-113. The referee was Waldemar Schmidt.

Promoter: Hyundai Promotions

(8-29-92)

Joe Koizumi

John-John Molina KO 4 Fernando Caicedo,

Bayamon, Puerto Rico—In one of the most ridiculous mismatches in the history of Puerto Rican boxing, local favorite Molina, 129, Fajardo, 29-3 (21), retained the IBF junior lightweight title for the first time by stopping the top-rated Caicedo, 130, Barranquilla, Colombia, 16-1 (12) or 14-0 (11)—depending on your source—at the Ruben Hernandez Coliseum.

How Caicedo, a 5'9" southpaw, rose to the IBF's top spot remains a mystery. But how he stayed there through 16 months of inactivity is a question for the ages. The challenger, who was unrated by the other alphabet organizations, had never fought outside of his homeland. He seemed petrified, and spent the first round frantically circling the ring. Molina pursued his foe until apparently getting bitten on the shoulder during a clinch. Then he *chased* him.

Molina was reckless throughout the second, and missed often. But he began a body attack, and in the third, Caicedo slowed down. Molina worked the challenger to the ropes and connected with a left-right that felled him face-first. Upon rising, Caicedo traded wildly until the bell.

In the fourth, Caicedo resumed his movement until Molina caught him with a right. Several followup blows, including a damaging right-left-right combination, produced another knockdown. Referee Waldemar Schmidt began a count, then elected to wave the bout off at the 38-second mark.

The judges were Robert Balogh (United States), Nelson Vasquez (Puerto Rico), and Stuart Winston (United States).

Promoter: Main Events

(8-22-92)

James Toney W 12 Mike McCallum,

Reno, Nevada—Last December, IBF middleweight champion Toney and former WBA titlist McCallum battled to a draw over 12 grueling rounds in what many observers considered 1991's Fight of the Year. As happens so often in boxing, their rematch failed to approach the drama and intensity of the original. In what might end up being 1992's Disappointment of the Year, Toney retained the title by majority decision at the Reno-Sparks Convention Center.

Toney, 158, Ann Arbor, Michigan, and McCallum, 158, Brooklyn, New York, both figured to have problems making the division limit. Still, few guessed that they would end up leaving their best efforts on the scales. As if concerned with dehydrating themselves, the middleweights fought to gain momentary advantages, and not much more.

The highlights were few. In the second, McCallum caught Toney with three consecutive hooks to the jaw, and Toney answered with one of his own. Late in the third, McCallum dug in a good right to the body that made Toney wince. The challenger failed to land enough body blows, however, to weaken Toney. In fact, by the last third of the bout, he had slowed even more than his opponent.

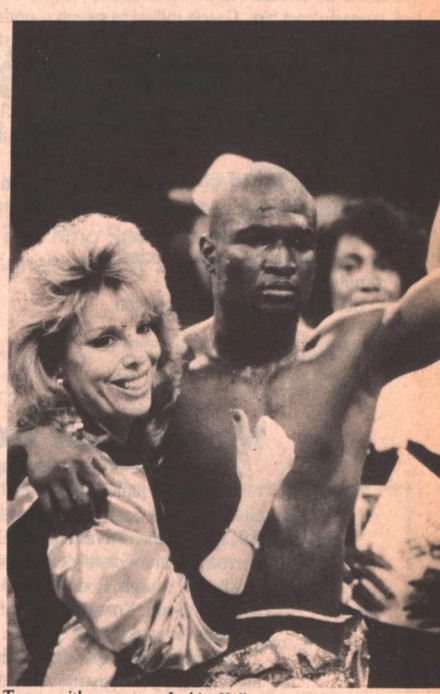
As in their first meeting, Toney, 32-0-1 (21), rallied late, landing a solid hook to the jaw in the ninth, and outhustling McCallum, 43-2-1 (34), the rest of the way. But unlike last December, neither came close to hurting the other, missing far more punches than landing.

The scoring: Doug Tucker and Tom McDonough, both 117-110 for Toney, and Phil Newman, 114-114.

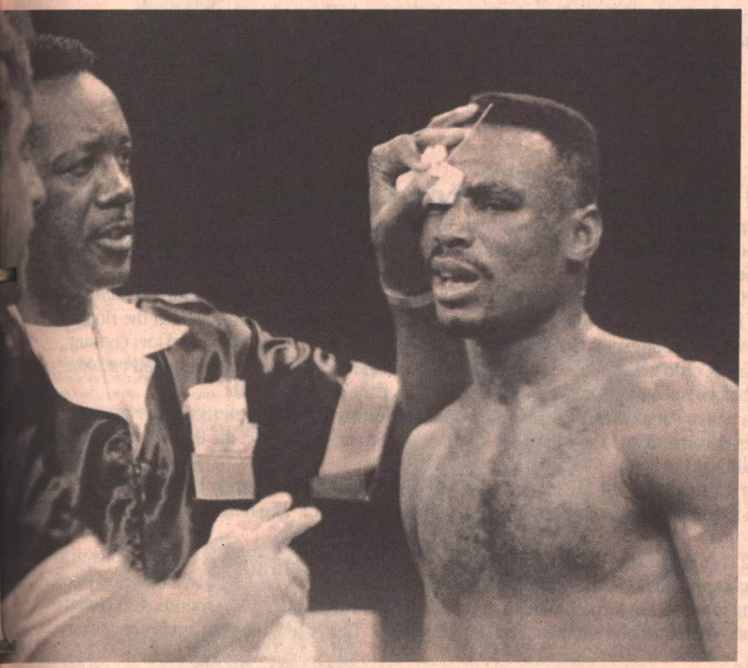
Both fighters figure to move up to super middleweight, Toney to challenge IBF champion Iran Barkley, and the 35-year-old McCallum to regroup.

(8-29-92)

Steve Nicolaisen



Toney with manager Jackie Kallen



Pendleton's cut came from a butt

Tracy Spann Tech. Draw 2 Fred Pendleton,

Reno, Nevada—On the Toney-McCallum undercard, an expected slugfest between Spann, 135, Plainfield, New Jersey, and Pendleton, 134, Philadelphia, lasted only until 2:05 of the second round, when an unintentional butt left the latter unable to continue. The lightweights were vying for the IBF title that had been vacated by Pernell Whitaker.

The butt opened a two-inch cut on Pendleton's right eyebrow. Under IBF rules, as six rounds had not been completed, and as Pendleton's injury had been ruled the result of a butt, and not a punch, the bout was declared a technical draw.

The bout had heated up quickly. After Pendleton, 32-17-4 (23), ran out at the opening bell and missed with an overhand right, Spann tried to throw him through the ropes. Midway through the round, Spann, a southpaw, dropped Pendleton with a short left. Unhurt, Pendleton arose quickly and kept out of trouble until the bell.

Early in the second, Pendleton started connecting with rights to the head, shaking Spann, 27-1-1 (21), on two occasions. Then came the butt, leaving Pendleton with a Y-shaped gash that started on his eyebrow and split to both his upper eyelid and above the brow.

The IBF has called for an immediate rematch as soon as Pendleton's cut is healed.

(8-29-92)

Steve Nicolaisen

Maurice Blocker W 12 Luis Garcia,

Atlantic City, New Jersey—Lucky Blocker is so thin. Otherwise he might not have been able to make such a narrow escape against the ever-pressing Garcia at the Trump Plaza Hotel. In a highly controversial split decision, Blocker, 147, Germantown, Maryland, ended a 10-month spell of inactivity to retain the IBF welterweight title over Garcia, 147, Caracas, Venezuela. It was "The Thin Man's" first defense.

Fred Jones saw Blocker a 116-110 winner, and Sheila Harmon-Martin had the champion ahead by 115-110. John Stewart scored 115-112 in favor of Garcia. *The Ring* had it 114-113 for Garcia.

Garcia, 24-2 (20), shook Blocker in round three, driving him to the ropes with a series of hard rights. Garcia, though, couldn't follow up on the damage already done, and the champion spent the remainder of the round clutching, grabbing, and running.

Blocker, 34-2 (18), turned aggressor in round five, sending Garcia to the canvas three times. The first two knockdowns resulted from short, potent hooks. Both times Garcia quickly rose and walked in for more punishment. Blocker scored the third knockdown with a flurry of punches moments before the bell. (The IBF does not have a three-knockdown rule.)

Blocker downshifted in the sixth and appeared to fight the remaining rounds in cruise control. It nearly cost him. Garcia rallied to sweep rounds seven through nine on all three cards. He pressured the champion, who fought only in spurts, and was clearly busier.

Both fighters were fatigued in the final two rounds, but again, Garcia's aggressiveness seemed to be worth more than Blocker's occasional jabbing.

"The name of the game is boxing," said Blocker. "I felt it was a little better for me to box over the last few rounds, so that's what I did. I was just glad the judges were able to identify boxing from slugging."

Unfortunately for Garcia, a most frustrating pattern seems to be developing: In his only other fight in the United States, he lost a split decision to WBA welterweight champion Meldrick Taylor.

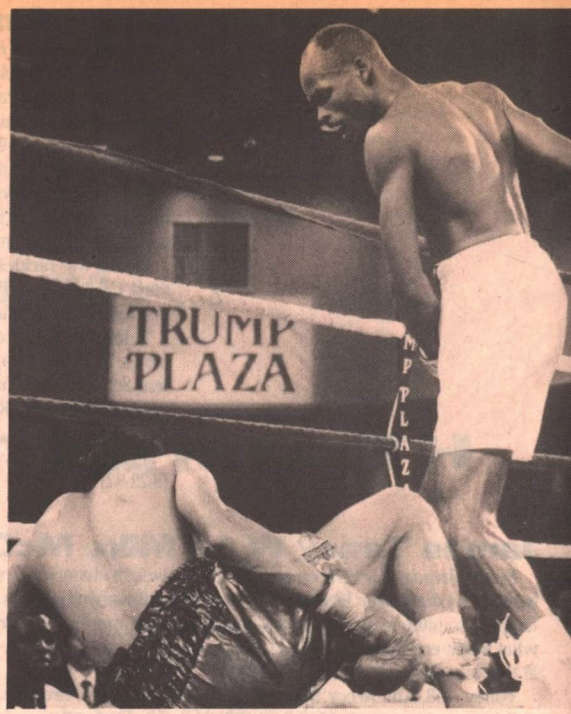
The referee was Frank Cappuccino.

Promoter: Butch Lewis

TV: Black Entertainment Television

(8-28-92)

Robert Cassidy



In round five, Blocker socked it to Garcia

Morris East KO 11 Akinobu Hiranaka,

Tokyo, Japan—Teenage southpaw East, 140, The Philippines, withstood the furious attacks of Japan's Hiranaka 140, and won the WBA junior welterweight title at 1:47 of the 11th round before 12,880 fans at the Japan Martial Arts Hall. Behind on all three cards, East, 15-2 (10) with 1 no-contest, floored the champion with a perfect counter left to the chin. Hiranaka, 20-2 (18), sank to the canvas and barely beat the count. One look at the damaged champion, however, convinced referee Carlos Berrocal to immediately call a halt at the 1:47 mark.

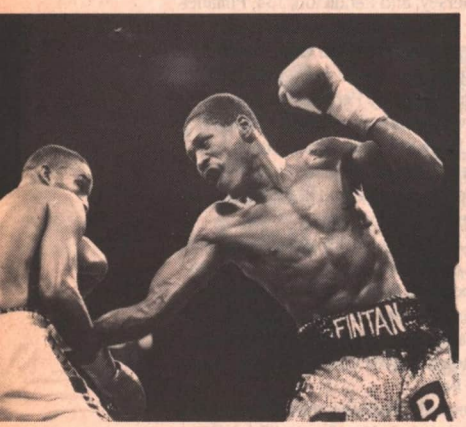
After 10 rounds, Rodolfo Maldonado (Panama) and Chalerm Prayadsab (Thailand) had scored for Hiranaka by 96-95. Wan Soo Yuh (South Korea) had it 97-95.

It was Hiranaka's first defense. (He had won the crown in April with a shocking first-round stoppage of Edwin Rosario.) The mustachioed Japanese dominated the first five rounds with pressure, but East remained relatively trouble-free by featuring lots of upper body movement. The challenger won the sixth, seventh, and eighth. Hiranaka was clearly beginning to tire in the ninth and 10th, which were evenly contested. Then came the 11th, and the single punch that made East a champion. Had Hiranaka hung on for another 1½ rounds, he would have likely retained the title.

Promoter: Kyokuto Promotions

(9-9-92)

Joe Koizumi



Cordoba's power shots weren't enough

Michael Nunn W 12 Victor Cordoba,

Las Vegas, Nevada—Nunn, placed in jeopardy by a 10th-round knockdown, seemingly received a late kiss from Lady Luck to take Cordoba's WBA super middleweight title via highly disputed split decision at the Thomas & Mack Center.

A capacity 19,100 Latin partisans, awaiting the main event of Julio Cesar Chavez-Hector Camacho, booed the verdict for more than five minutes, and long after the swollen-faced Nunn had left the ring.

In a battle of elongated southpaws, Nunn, 168, Agoura, California, carried his right hand low coming out for round 10, and Cordoba seized the moment with a perfect left to the jaw. Nunn dropped onto the seat of his trunks before rolling over and rising at referee Mills Lane's count of eight.

Cordoba, 168, a native Panamanian fighting out of Belfast, Northern Ireland, was the busier fighter at the end, but he never came close to matching his knockdown. Strangely, he won the final round on two of three cards, and still lost the fight.

Patricia Jarman (USA) scored 114-112 for Cordoba, but was outvoted by Fernando Viso (Venezuela) and Ove Ovesson (Denmark), both of whom had Nunn ahead by 114-112. *The Ring* saw it 114-112 for Cordoba.

Cordoba, 18-4-2 (14), dominated the first three rounds, and almost dropped Nunn in the second with a combination of rights and hooks to the body. By the end of the third, Nunn, 38-1 (25), was bleeding from the mouth. Moving forward, the former middleweight titlist took most of the middle rounds, and won the ninth by two points when Cordoba was penalized for hitting low. Then came the 10th, and Nunn's scary moment.

"It was a flash knockdown, but once I got up, I was in total control," Nunn said. "I was thinking about the Toney fight when I got up, saying to myself, 'I got to be strong. There ain't no way I can lose two fights like that.' "

Said Cordoba, "Everybody who saw the fight knows I won."

(9-12-92)

Jack Welsh

(Continued on page 70)

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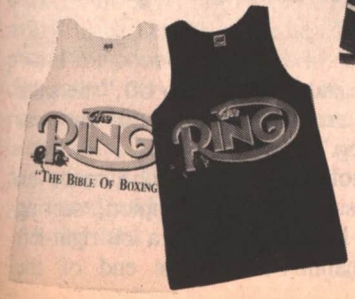

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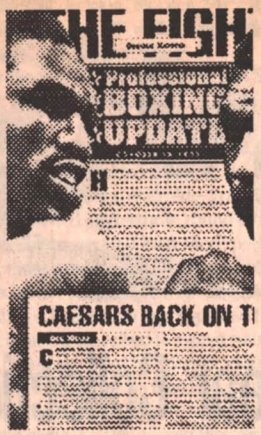

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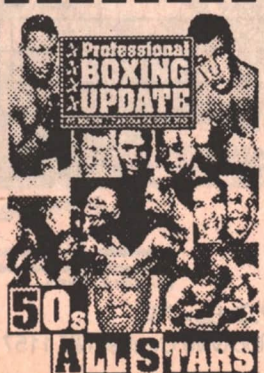

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New Faces

(Continued from page 16)

"It would be great to be world champ," he said, "but my main goal is to be a good husband and good father to my wife and baby, who I love very much."

Sounds corny, but such inspiration has taken fighters a long way. After watching Pena several times, one gets the feeling he means it.

"He's a very, very clean-cut individual," reports Adams. "You couldn't find a better young man to work with."

Muhammad echoes the thought: "He's quiet, a good family man. You don't have to worry about him being out late because he's always at home."

Pena has planned for the future and taken college courses in business administration and computer science. For now, though, he is capitalizing on his athletic ability. Big fights are not so far away.

"I can't say any fighter influenced my style or dreams," he said. "I don't look up to anybody, I don't try to be like anyone else. I just try to be myself, a quiet person. I think I'm ready now; all I need is to get used to going the distance. I need to go 10 and 12 rounds. We're looking at a year, year and a half."

At this stage, Pena has demonstrated both the talent and class it takes to be champion. We may see one of those rare and special scenarios where the nice guy finishes at the head of the pack. ■

Phil Woolever, who is based in Tucson, Arizona, is a correspondent for The Ring.

John L. Sullivan

(Continued from page 47)

Sullivan said in a quizzical sort of way, "Say, Bob, how old are you? I was once in a party where Al Smith won a basket of wine and £50 on your age. You're 41, ain't you?"

"John, people have said I was 58 and some 62, but I'll be 42 years old next June. I was born in Helston, Cornwall, England, in June 1862."

"And your mother's name was Strongman, wasn't it, Bob?"

"Sure, but how did you know?"

"Oh, I saw the birth certificate."

"How old are you, John?" asked Fitz.

"I'll be 46 next October."

Just before the meeting ended, the talk once more drifted back to Sullivan's health. John once more reassured the party that he would be all right before long, and he said that he had learned a good lesson during the present illness.

"Why, we read about this millionaire—what's his name, Rockefeller?—who is worth $300,000,000 and has no stomach to eat with. Well, that gent and myself are in the same boat, only I haven't any $300,000,000."

Sullivan noticed the camera which the *Globe* photographer carried and asked what it was for. He was told that the *Globe* hoped to get a photograph of him and Fitz as they met, but that as he was abed, of course such a thing was impossible.

"Impossible? No, I guess not, my boy. If there's any people I like to oblige, it's the newspaper fellows—great boys, they are. They will do more good for a man than all the preachers in creation. You'll always find me ready to oblige reporters any time it's within my powers. What do you say, Bob?"

Bob acquiesced, and then the great John L. lifted himself to a sitting position and put his legs outside the bed.

That was the most pathetic incident of the visit. With fatherly care, Bob Fitzsimmons placed his great right arms behind Sullivan's broad back and held him comfortably while the latter arranged himself. When everything was apparently ready, Fitz glanced down and noticed that a part of Sullivan's legs were uncovered, and the picture-taking operation had to be postponed until the sympathetic Fitz had wrapped him carefully in the clothes. It was touching.

Then they shook hands for the last time, and as they did so, John L., in his humorous style, remarked, "Bob, it would be pretty hard for us old guys to get out of the country. We have been pretty well mugged."

Fitzsimmons endeared himself to old John L. by his visit, and John L. never forgets a friend. ■

Chavez-Camacho

(Continued from page 45)

"I couldn't keep Julio off," he said. "The pressure he put on me was amazing."

In round four, Camacho made an impression on the champion, scoring with a left uppercut and a left-right-left combination toward the end of the

round. But Chavez still won the round.

Camacho appeared tired by the sixth, his body drained from having lost eight pounds during the final week of training. By the seventh, the former two-time world champion assumed the role of survivor. He alternately moved and clinched the rest of the way, and fought back only when Chavez forced him to.

By round nine, Chavez had closed Camacho's left eye, cut his right eyelid, and turned him into a stationary target. As the champion landed pinpoint hooks and rights, Camacho, to the surprise of many, battled back. For the last few rounds, at least, he truly was macho.

"He turned out to be a better fighter than I expected," Chavez said through an interpreter. "He's not the feminine fighter I thought he would be. He really took a lot of punches. I have to give him credit. He had a lot of heart."

Although Camacho's trainer, Rudy Mata, pleaded with him to quit late in the fight, Camacho chose to endure the punishment. (A $100,000 side bet with Chavez may also have had something to do with Camacho's desire to remain vertical.)

After the fight, Camacho was a remarkably gracious loser.

"It was the first time I fought a guy with that much courage," he said. "But I don't feel discouraged at all. I fought a courageous fight. But he won it, no doubt."

The victory raised Chavez to 82-0 (67), while Camacho fell to 40-2 (18). Both fighters were guaranteed $3-million.

After the fight, Camacho headed not to the hospital, but to the dance floor at Chavez' victory party. If he couldn't outpunch Chavez, he was going to outdance him. And therein lies Camacho's biggest problem. Most fighters would have locked themselves away for a week after such a humbling defeat. But Camacho chose to party with the man who beat him.

It was no surprise. Macho has never taken his career seriously. During the week of his bout with Chavez, whom many people regard as the best fighter, pound for pound, in the world, Camacho called off a scheduled hour-long run after 36 minutes and headed to a health club. There, he worked out for a whopping three minutes before he got bored and left.

A day later, he broke training camp

(Continued on page 58)

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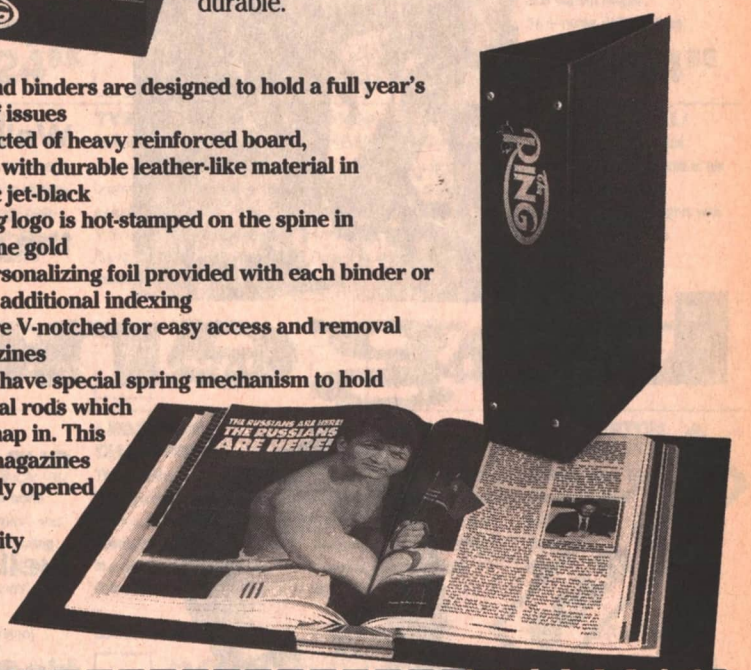

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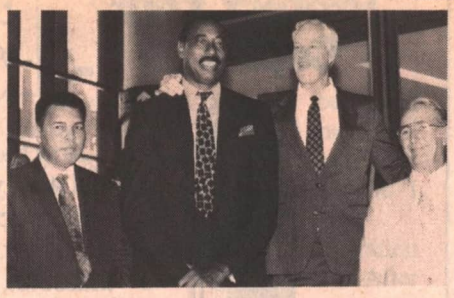
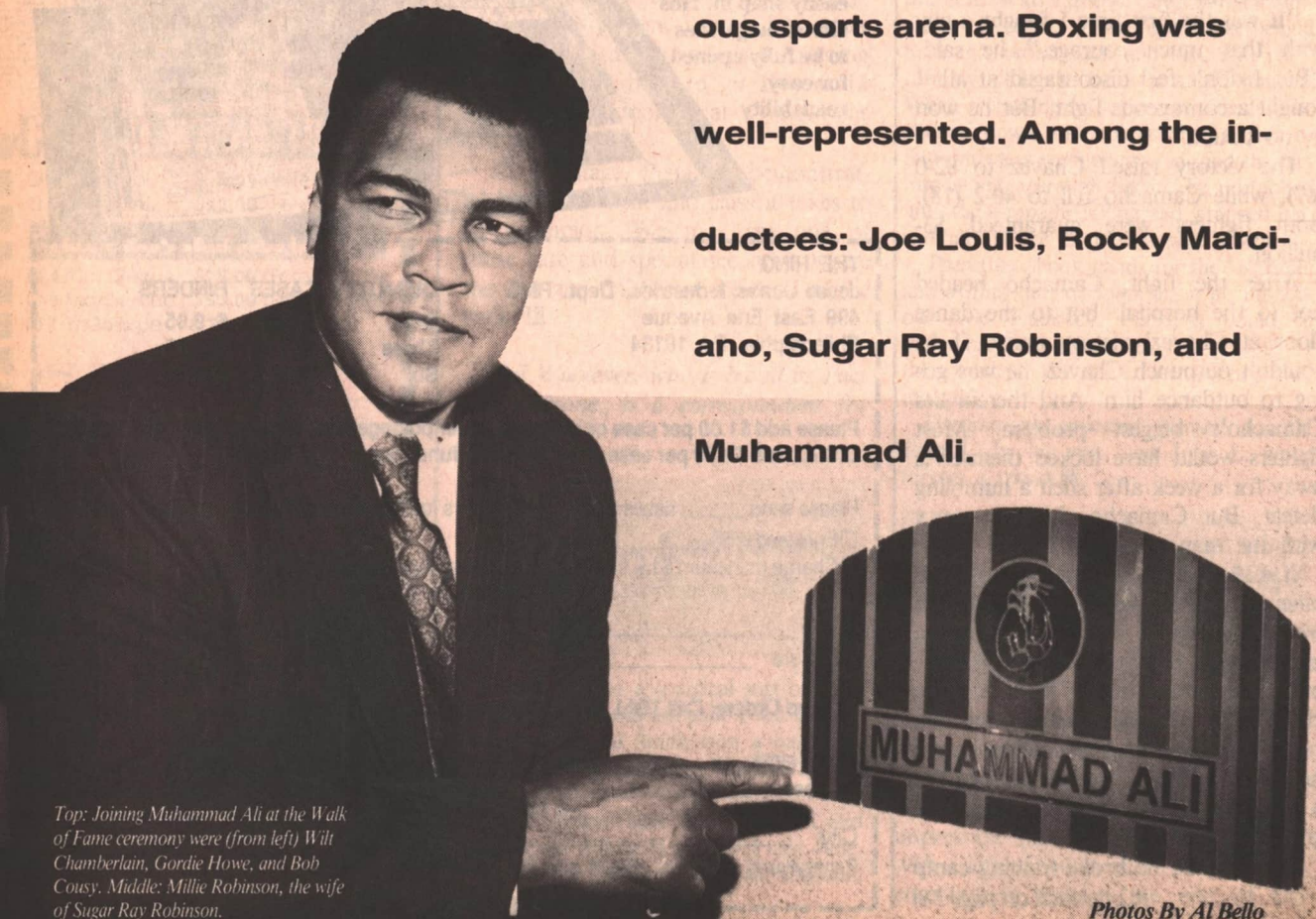


On September 15, Madison Square Garden introduced its Walk of Fame, a celebration of the greatest athletes to have performed in the world's most famous sports arena. Boxing was well-represented. Among the inductees: Joe Louis, Rocky Marciano, Sugar Ray Robinson, and Muhammad Ali.



Top: Joining Muhammad Ali at the Walk of Fame ceremony were (from left) Wilt Chamberlain, Gordie Howe, and Bob Cousy. Middle: Millie Robinson, the wife of Sugar Ray Robinson.

Photos By Al Bello

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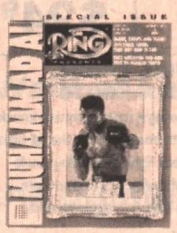

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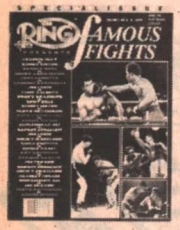

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Chavez-Camacho

(Continued from page 55)

to buy a $150,000 Lamborghini. Then it was off to a restaurant, where, according the *The New York Times,* he consumed *17* sodas, and jumped from 143 to 148 pounds.

And this all happened before the most important fight of his career. Throughout the years, countless other acts of foolishness have been chronicled. Marty Cohen, the one-time adviser to Camacho, believes the fighter's child-like nature has prevented him from realizing his potential.

"He still plays with toys," Cohen told the *Times*. "And he's irresponsible. When we were up in camp in Florida, we had a cook working there. The guy did something that bothered Hector. So Hector took a gun and shot holes through the cook's busted-up car."

Chavez, meanwhile, has always lived a quiet, uncomplicated life. After he fights, he returns home and spends time with family and friends. And when training resumes, he takes it seriously. In fact, though everyone told him that Macho was finished, Chavez prepared as if he were meeting a legitimate threat.

The main difference between these men is that Chavez has always had a true sense of who he is and where he's going. Unlike Camacho, whose career has been pock-marked with extended breaks, Chavez, who turned professional in 1980, has averaged almost seven fights a year.

Since September 1984, when he stopped Mario Martinez to win the vacant WBC 130-pound title, he has fought 37 times. Along the way, he's picked up WBA and WBC crowns at 135 pounds, and WBC and IBF crowns at 140. He's beaten tough opponents like Ruben Castillo, Rocky Lockridge, Juan LaPorte, Edwin Rosario, Jose Luis Ramirez, Roger Mayweather, and, of course, Meldrick Taylor.

Camacho's opponents hardly approach such a level. Bazooka Limon, Howard Davis Jr., and Ramirez were good wins, but victories over Vinny Pazienza and Greg Haugen have already been forgotten.

Chavez is a relaxed person, with a sense of self-confidence that is revealed

by his easy-going manner. By contrast, Camacho is insecure. Talk to him one day and you'll find him to be quiet and gracious. Talk to him the next day and he'll be loud, belligerent, attention-seeking, and, on occasion, nonsensical. Other times, he'll be all of the above.

Growing up, Chavez did as he was told. From the age of 14, boxing was uppermost on his mind. As a teenager, Camacho listened to no one. He was expelled from six schools and, in 1979, arrested for car theft. For that, he spent a day in Riker's Island, a maximum security prison in New York. Trouble has dogged him ever since.

Patrick Flannery was once asked to explain what it was like to manage the Macho Man. His experience sounded worse than the heartbreak of psoriasis.

"After all I've put up with," he said, "I reserve the right to kill Hector."

Hmm, maybe *that's* why Chavez didn't knock Camacho out.■

Gene Fullmer

(Continued from page 43)

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The church stressed discipline and clean living, to which he attributes much of his success. "The lifestyle and work ethic carried over into boxing," he said. "Mentally, it was no different."

Although still a few years short of retirement age, Fullmer has more than earned his time off. It seems that he's been boxing and/or working for most of his life. He began taking boxing lessons at the West Jordan Athletic Club when he was just eight. The club's instructor was Marv Jenson, a mink farmer who trained Fullmer from that first day until the fighter's retirement 24 years later. Most of the young boys at the West Jordan A.C. were encouraged to live by the Word of Wisdom, which is the Mormon code. To an eight-year-old, it meant being a good boy. An added enticement was the presentation of club sweaters on the condition that the boys attended Sunday School every week and promised to never smoke or drink. At least in one case, it worked.

"Owning one of those sweaters meant a lot to a young boy then," said Fullmer. "You have to remember, this was a small western town where some people still didn't have electricity. When peer pressure was put on me, I'd say to the guys, 'If I break the code, then I'll have to give the sweater back.' And that sweater meant more to me than having a drink or a cigarette."

Fullmer was considered an awkward fighter, but what few people know is that he was a versatile athlete. In high school, he played football and basketball, and was a miler in track. At the same time, he was quickly racking up wins on the amateur fistic circuit. His record varies, depending on the source, but it is generally agreed upon that Fullmer won more than 80 amateur bouts and lost no more than five—all in national competitions. In 1948, he made it to the semifinals of the Olympic Trials. A year later, he lost to future welterweight champion Johnny Saxton in the finals of the AAU National Tournament.

After turning pro in 1951, Fullmer ran off 15 consecutive wins, 13 by kayo. But a two-year hitch in the Army during the Korean War interrupted his ascent in the middleweight rankings. Shortly after being honorably discharged, he reaccelerated and won all nine of his 1954 bouts.

In November '54, Jenson took Fullmer east to get some big-time exposure in New York. After viewing Fullmer sparring, legendary matchmaker Teddy Brenner was so unimpressed that he offerred to pay for the pair's return fare to Utah. But a one-sided, upset 10-round decision over New York City favorite Jackie LaBua, a Jake LaMotta protege, turned heads and changed quite a few opinions. Fullmer soon became a semi-regular in the Big Apple, beating quality talent such as future middleweight king Paul Pender.

The Fullmer Express continued to roll until April 4, 1955, when he lost a grueling 10-round decision to Gil Turner at Brooklyn's Eastern Parkway Arena. Fullmer avenged the loss by outpointing Turner in two rematches.

"He beat the hell out of me the first time," Fullmer recanted. "Turner was one of the toughest guys I ever fought."

Fullmer closed out the '55 campaign with two decision losses, but rebounded in 1956, beating contenders Rocky Castellani, Turner, Ralph "Tiger" Jones, and Charley Humez. The victories paved the way for a title shot

(Continued on page 62)

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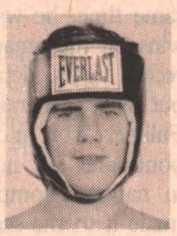

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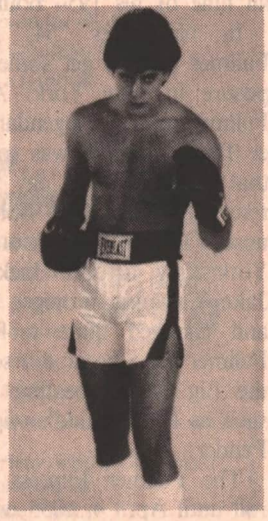

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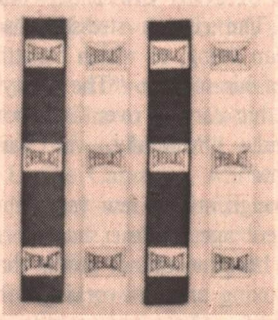

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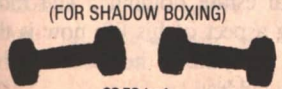

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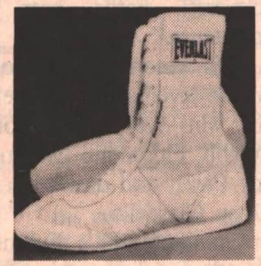

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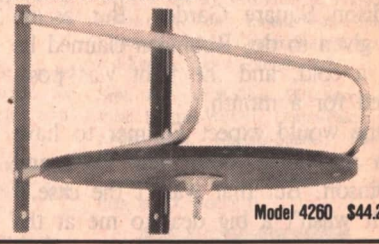

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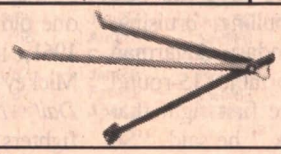

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Gene Fullmer

(Continued from page 59)

with Sugar Ray Robinson.

Fullmer had pushed for a fight with Robinson since 1955, and was finally granted his wish when Robinson agreed to a December '56 defense at Madison Square Garden. But as he was given to do, Robinson claimed he had a cold, and the fight was postponed for a month.

One would expect Fullmer to have been in awe of both New York and Robinson. But that wasn't the case.

"It wasn't a big deal to me at the time," he said. "I had already fought on a Joe Louis undercard in San Francisco in 1951. I knocked out Carlos Martinez in the first round. I was voted the best fighter on the card, and I won a suit. But it was too big," he added with a laugh, "so I never got to wear it.

"I had fought enough fighters and had the confidence. The only people who thought that I could beat Robinson were me and Marv. And I'm not so sure about Marv."

The night of the fight, Fullmer had Jenson call the president of the Church, Ezra Taft Benson, who was also the Secretary of Agriculture, to say a prefight prayer. "Not to win," explained Fullmer, "but for me to do my best and not get hurt or cut up badly."

Fullmer proceeded to give the best effort of his career, bulling, bruising, and dropping the legendary Sugarman en route to a comfortable 15-round points win. "It was the first fight that I didn't even get a nick," he said. "So I said to Marv, 'Let's get this guy back for each fight.' "

Although he no longer wore Jenson's sweater, Fullmer celebrated his coronation by downing a few bottles of pop. A few days after returning home, he was back working in the copper mines for $17.65 a day.

Three months later, Robinson avenged the loss by catching Fullmer with a hook that the champion neither saw nor remembers. A disoriented Fullmer staggered to his feet after being counted out and asked Jenson, "Why'd they stop the fight?" Shortly after, he showed up at the victor's press conference to extend his congratulations. He offered no excuses.

Fullmer was surprised and disappointed that he didn't receive a rematch with Robinson, who would go on to lose the title to Carmen Basilio that autumn, and then win it back in March 1958. Meanwhile, Fullmer stayed active, winning nine consecutive bouts before stopping Basilio for the vacant NBA crown in August 1959. His second title-winning performance, a 14th-round stoppage, was nearly as dominant as his first.

Wrote columnist Red Smith, "[It] may have been the most skillful performance by an unskilled pug, and the cleverest battle ever planned by amateurs."

His second time around, Fullmer made seven successful defenses, including wins over Basilio, Robinson, Spider Webb, Florentino Fernandez, and Benny Paret, and draws vs. Robinson and Joey Giardello.

Standing 5'8", Fullmer had thick, sturdy legs, a strong torso, and a 17-inch neck, which helped absorb blows. He didn't possess one-punch knockout power, and he surely wasn't a boxer. Rather, he was a true blue collar fighter. He'd swarm his opponents, barreling in, and staying as close as possible to smother their punches. And he had the stamina to fight at a brisk pace, both dishing out and taking punishment. He attributes the high altitude of West Jordan and his lifelong work ethic for the ability to fight at an exceptional pace.

His style befuddled enough opponents for him to finish with a record of 55-6-3 (24). While he impressed few boxing experts of the day, there was one old pro who liked what he saw. In 1961, the legendary "Toy Bulldog," Mickey Walker, told the New York *Daily News*, "Out of all of today's fighters, Fullmer is the only one who could have been a champion or contender in my time."

In October 1962, Fullmer lost the title to Dick Tiger, who had a style similar to his own, except that the straight-punching Tiger had little trouble getting inside of the champion's looping hooks and smothering his body shots. Tiger cut Fullmer over both eyes and earned a unanimous decison. The rematch was much closer and scored a draw. Conceding that he lost the first fight, Fullmer still believes that he deserved the decision in the rematch. It was for that reason that he journeyed to Tiger's hometown of Ibadan, Nigeria, for what would be the last fight of his career.

"Making weight had become a problem, but I really thought that I could beat Tiger," he said. "He definitely beat me the first time, but I felt I beat him in Las Vegas. But I was an underdog, and when does the underdog ever win in Las Vegas? Not even today."

It was the conditions in Nigeria, Fullmer claims, that played a large role in his seventh-round TKO loss, which was only the second stoppage defeat of his career. (Fullmer surrendered in his corner.) "I don't know exactly what it was, but I had nothing," he said. "No strength. No power. No nothing. Tiger was hitting me, but his punches weren't hurting me, yet I couldn't fight back."

After hanging up his gloves, Fullmer didn't have to make that much of an adjustment. Like Jenson, he became a successful mink rancher, until animal activists made the business unprofitable.

"I had a full-time job for most of my life," he said. "I didn't quit working in the copper mines until the Basilio fight. And that's because [the company] wouldn't give me time off to train." So much for being a worldwide celebrity in a small town.

Fullmer's post-boxing life has had its share of valleys. He has been involved in numerous business ventures that went sour. ("It got to the point that if a guy offered to give me a million dollars, I knew it would end up costing me $2-million to get it.")

About the only person he could trust outside of his family was Jenson, who is now in his 70s and also lives in West Jordan. (It was, Fullmer says, a father-son relationship.) He did, however, invest in real estate, something he wished he had done a lot more of.

"Forty years ago," he said, "there were only a couple of thousand people here. Today it's over 70,000."

For Fullmer, the date of January 2 brings conflicting emotions. It was on that day in 1957 that he won the title from Robinson. But on the second day of the year in 1983, Gene's first wife, Dolores, died. "It's the happiest and the saddest days of my life," he said.

Today, Fullmer and his second wife, Karen, live on his farm, where he raises a few animals for sale, and lives off his real estate holdings. The most demanding aspect of his life now is the occasional babysitting he does for his nine grandchildren.

(Continued on page 64)

'60s & '70s ISSUES

When Cassius Clay made his pro debut in 1960, *The Ring* was there. When "The Greatest" fought Joe Frazier for the heavyweight title in 1971, *The Ring* was there. Before Carlos Monzon, Jose Napoles, and Roberto Duran made names for themselves, the readers of *The Ring* were already talking about them. *The Ring* covered all the boxing events and personalities of the '60s and '70s as no other magazine could—and now a limited supply of back issues from those two decades are available for $10 each (including postage and handling).

June 1964: Joey Giardello: "I'm Young Again!" Plus: Cassius Clay, Floyd Patterson, Willie Pastrano, Carlos Ortiz.

July 1964: Will Bobo Olson Win Title? Plus: Polo Grounds, Cassius Clay, Willie Pastrano, Sugar Ramos.

Aug. 1964: Who Is Floyd Robertson? Plus: Max Schmeling, Griffith-Rodriguez, Dick Tiger, Olympic preview, Joey Giardello, Sonny Liston.

Sept. 1964: The Perils Of Patterson! Plus: Cleveland Williams, Laszlo Papp, Jose Stable, Carlos Ortiz.

Feb. 1965: Where Do Our Heavies Stand Now? Plus: James J. Braddock, Emile Griffith, Jose Torres, Willie Pastrano, Oscar Bonavena, Eder Jofre.

April 1965: Clay Clamors For White Hopes. Plus: Jack Dempsey, Jess Willard, Patterson-Chuvalo, Carlos Hernandez, Tony Galento, Joe Louis.

July 1965: Jose Torres, Puerto Rico's New Hero. Plus: Clay-Liston II prefight, Gene Tunney, Joey Giardello, Bonavena-Folley, George Chuvalo.

Oct. 1965: Will $$$ Still Lure Wilt? Plus: Jose Torres, Floyd Patterson, Joe Frazier, four ring hopefuls, Billy Conn, Liston-Clay, Flash Elorde.

Nov. 1965: Giardello Title Tenure Over? Plus: History of middleweights, heavyweight situation, Johnny Persol, Luis Rodriguez, Mathis & Frazier's pro debuts.

May 1966: Who Will Tame Dick Tiger? Clay-Terrell preview, James Norris, Emile Griffith, Vicente Saldivar.

Sept. 1966: France Claims Its First Welter Title. Plus: Ernie Terrell, Nino Benvenuti, U.S. vs. Britain.

Jan. 1967: Is Time Running Out On Terrell? Plus: Torres-Tiger preview, long count mystery solved, Carlos Ortiz, Cassius Clay, Zora Folley, Johnny Persol.

March 1967: Why Isn't Clay Fighter Of The Year? Plus: Year-end issue, 2,500 fighters rated, Tiger-Torres, Clay-Terrell, Curtis Cokes.

April 1967: Death Stalks The Tiger. Plus: Cassius Clay, Emile Griffith, Mike Jacobs, Barney Ross, Joe Clark.

May 1967: Cassius Clay: "Louis Clobber Me? He Must Be Joking!" Plus: Frazier-Jones, Floyd Patterson, Carlos Ortiz, Frazier-Mathis preview, Nino Benvenuti.

June 1967: They're Talking Frazier Now!!! Plus: Ali-Folley, Joe Louis, Ismael Laguna, Clay-Ellis?, Joe Gans.

Aug. 1967: Karl Mildenberger: Germany's Second Schmeling? Plus: Nino Benvenuti, Foster-Cotton, Curtis Cokes, Tiger-Torres II, heavyweight analysis.

Dec. 1967: Jack Dempsey Picks Next Heavyweight Champion. Plus: Griffith-Benvenuti II, Joe Frazier, Gans-McGovern controversy, Buster Mathis.

Jan. 1968: Corbett-Dempsey Computer Fight. Plus: Joe Frazier, Jerry Quarry, Jimmy Ellis, Thad Spencer, Vicente Saldivar retires.

Feb. 1968: The Quarry-Spencer Delay—Why? Plus: Bob Foster, Buster Mathis, Rocky Marciano, Jimmy Ellis, Dick Tiger, all-time heavyweight tournament.

April 1968: Spectre Of Clay Haunts Heavy Situation (painting by LeRoy Neiman) Plus: Transcript of Clay trial, Rocky Marciano, Ingemar Johansson, Bob Foster, Jerry Quarry.

May 1968: Quarry Revives White Hope Cry!!! Plus: Frazier-Mathis, Jimmy Ellis, Joe Frazier, Dick Tiger, Bob Foster, Nino Benvenuti.

June 1968: Boone Kirkman: Heavyweight Threat. Plus: Ken Buchanan, Sonny Liston, Ernie Terrell, southpaws, Nino Benvenuti & Frank Sinatra.

Sept. 1968: Foster: "I'm The Best Fighter In The World." Plus: Joe Frazier, Jimmy Ellis, Jack Dempsey, Manuel Ramos, Ortiz-Cruz, heavyweight enigmas.

Oct. 1968: Olympics Beckon To Seekers Of Heavyweight Riches. Plus: Joe Frazier, Sonny Liston, Joe Louis, middleweights, Buster Mathis.

Nov. 1968: Are Today's Fighters Overpaid? Plus: Joey Archer, Emile Griffith, Sugar Ray Robinson, Fritzie Zivic.

Dec. 1968: Is World Boxing Association Crumbling? Plus: Ellis-Patterson, George Chuvalo, Kid Gavilan, Bob Foster.

Feb. 1969: How Good Is Olympic Champ Foreman? Plus: Floyd Patterson, Emile Griffith, Freddie Little, George Chuvalo, Hall of Fame (Baer, O'Brien, Hyer), Lou Brouillard.

April 1969: Controversy Rages: Ketchel Or Robinson? Plus: Ken Buchanan, Joe Frazier, Jimmy Ellis, Bob Foster, computer fights, Buster Mathis.

May 1969: Frazier-Ellis—A Knockout For 1969! Plus: Mando Ramos, Bob Foster, cornermen, Marty Servo.

June 1969: Do Women Really Rule Boxing? Plus: Mando Ramos, trainers, Cassius Clay, Jerry Quarry, knockdown rule.

Oct. 1969: "How I'll Win" by Joe Frazier & Jimmy Ellis. Plus: What's next for Clay, Joe Bugner, Jack Dempsey, Joe Louis, Mac Foster, Vicente Saldivar.

Nov. 1969: How Much Has Aging Liston Left? Plus: Ruben Olivares, Tommy Walsh, Battling Levinsky, referees.

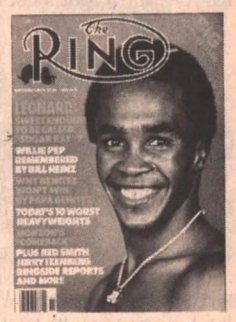
May 1975: Ron Lyle: "I Only Lost A Battle, Not The War." Plus: Tiger Flowers, George Foreman, Lyle-Young, Frazier-Ellis, Quarry-Johnson, Johnny Baldwin, Tommy Rose.

Sept. 1977: Norton-Young: Winner To Fight Ali! Plus: Sugar Ray Leonard, Michael and Leon Spinks, John Tate, Palomino-Green, Galindez-Kates II, Wilfredo Gomez, Irish-American fighters.

Nov. 1977: Monzon Retires. Plus: Next middleweight king?, Arguello-Fernandez, Benitez-Guerrero, Mattioli-Dagge, Palacios-Muniz.

July 1979: Foreman Exclusive: Preach Or Punch? Plus: Mike Weaver, Jack Sharkey, Galindez-Rossman II, Franklin-Johnson II, Jorge Lujan, Watt-Pitalua, Chacon-Limon II, Conteh-Burnett, Leonard-Viruet, federal commission?

Sept. 1979: Is Holmes Ali's Successor? Plus: Holmes-Weaver, Duran-Palomino, Lopez-Ayala, Coetzee-Spinks, Pintor-Zarate, Tate-Knoetze, Kim-Guisseppi, Lopez-Ayala, Gomez-Hernandez, German greats, Rocky II.



NOVEMBER 1979

Nov. 1979: Leonard: Sweet Enough To Be Called "Sugar Ray"? Plus: Wilfred Benitez, Willie Pep, 10 worst heavyweights, Monzon comback?, Cuevas-Shields, Leonard-Ranzany, Muhammad-Conteh, Hilmer Kenty.

Dec. 1979: What's Next For Larry Holmes? Plus: Holmes-Shavers II, Pipino Cuevas, Thomas Hearns, Arum & King, Leonard-Price, Gomez-Mendoza.

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Gene Fullmer

(Continued from page 62)

"The good thing about grandkids is that you get to send them home," he said with a laugh.

He is also president of the Rocky Mountain Golden Gloves. It's his way of giving something back to boxing.

Like most people in their 60s, Fullmer has had his fair share of good and bad luck. Unlike many of his fellow ringmen, however, he can reflect on all aspects of his career with no bitterness and only a few regrets. For boxers, and boxing fans, it's an atypical story. And that's something to smile about.■

Bigfoot Martin

(Continued from page 21)

Smokin' Bert four years ago. Why *Cooper?* Why did *he* get the call? Bigfoot thinks it could be him one day. He thinks that because when he closes his eyes and turns on the VCR in his head, when he plays back the last three years of his career, he sees things that journeyman heavyweights aren't supposed to see. He is not the stereotypical hit-me, drop-me, pay-me journeyman at all. Most journeymen don't even have enough highlights to fill up a good daydream.

When Bigfoot hits the PLAY button, however, he sees himself handing top-10 contender Tim Witherspoon his first defeat in six years, decking unbeaten Michael Moorer with a right hand, surviving 10 rounds with George Foreman (something only two of Big George's 26 comeback victims have done), troubling Riddick Bowe before losing on a cut, and taking Tony Tucker the distance. Another punch here, another "any given night" there, and maybe, just maybe . . .

Then reality kicks in. Self-doubt and self-confidence have always battled each other in a tennis match of his mind. The battles are so close, they seem forever destined for a fifth set tiebreaker. Self-doubt always goes up a service break when Bigfoot remembers that, in the boxscore, he is still a lowly 1-10 in his last 11 heavyweight fights, and that he lost in two rounds to Francesco Damiani on a body shot, fell in seven to Johnny DuPlooy, and lost decisions to—*open a window and air out the room!*—Levi Billups, Pierre Coetzer, and Gary Mason.

"Realistically, I ain't ever gonna get the big chance," the 28-year-old Bigfoot says sadly. "I'm still a nobody. On a good day, I can beat anyone in the top 10, but I don't have many good days. Nobody ever knows if I'll come to fight real good that day or not."

Why, then, does he do so well against the heavyweight elite and so poorly against the rank and file?

"I asked that question myself," he says. "I think it's because when you're a guy who thinks he's real good, I get extra motivation to prove you wrong. When you walk in the ring with your nose in the air, it makes me fight harder."

Bigfoot has been trying to lower noses—or break them—since he was a 10-year-old growing up in the Houston neighborhood of South Park. For seven years, he hung with a gang called V.A. It stood for Vicious Animals, so you can pretty much figure out that these guys didn't get together to play Monopoly, flip baseball cards, and dream up great trades for the Astros. "Foots," as he was known then, would go to school during the day, hit the gym in the afternoon, then run with the V.A. at night, getting into fights and stealing from grocery stores. You can't say that his life lacked structure.

He won three straight Houston Golden Gloves titles as a heavyweight and turned pro at 20. But at the urging of his first manager, he worked his way *downward,* through cruiserweight and light heavyweight, to super middle. That strange odyssey featured 13 wins in his first 14 fights, and an upset kayo of touted light heavy Poncho Carter, but also—and here was the first evidence of what an odd career this would be—decision defeats to no-names Sakkie Enslin and Kelvin Kelly, and a draw with Charles Walker.

The prodigal son, looking more like the fatted calf, returned to heavyweight in 1988, and has fought 11 times since. He has met only ranked fighters, going 1-10 and nearing ever closer to the .500-mark. His record stands at 18-15-1 (8).

"Damndest career I've seen in my life," says Willie Savannah, Bigfoot's manager. "I think he's one of these people who's scared of success. He could've won the Mason fight in England, and after the Moorer fight, he said, 'If I threw more punches, I'd have won.' Why he didn't, only God above knows. I'd like to see him in good shape one day. His idea of being in 95 percent shape is my idea of 50 percent. You ever seen someone in an office who thinks they worked real hard that day, but they didn't do s____? That's what his training is like."

He doesn't train the right way and he doesn't always fight the right way, but a guy like Bigfoot is very much in demand because he loses the right way: causing some problems for his showcased opponent, maybe knocking down the hero or winning a couple of rounds, inevitably faltering, but finishing on his feet. Most importantly, ESPN or the USA Network always gets in the allotted amount of commercials.

In a business where one loss at the wrong time can be fatal to fighters' earning potential, Bigfoot, ironically, assures himself of more work with every defeat.

His is a life that is full of such irony and contradiction. He doesn't seem to fit anywhere in the heavyweight picture, doesn't comfortably assume a role the way that so many other fighters do. He's somewhere between a contender and a trialhorse. Good enough to not be bad, but bad enough to not be good. A square pug in a round hole.

Nothing seems to fit right for him except his trunks. Too often, his real life gets in the way of his boxing: He's been in the process of divorcing his wife for over a year, and says the domestic turmoil has put his concentration on Queer Street. Too often, his boxing gets in the way of his real life: He recently quit his $6.25-an-hour job with the Houston Water Department because his boss kept hassling him about missing too many days while traveling to fights.

He is a guy who has made as much as $40,000 for a fight only once, faces the top heavyweights for only $10,000-$15,000, and has to work a full-time job, but someone who tithes 10 percent of his earnings to the church and gives most of the other 90 percent away to any member in his family who asks for it. He is a former gang member who makes a living in the most brutal of ways, but says his favorite hobby is collecting vases.

"I like pretty things," he says. "I have about 23 of them. The nicest one cost me $300. It has Chinese marble cuts in it. Beautiful."

He calls his upset of Witherspoon, a former two-time champion who was rated in the top six by all three alphabet organizations, "an okay performance," and a decision defeat to Vincent Boulware in a meaningless super middleweight fight in 1987 "my perfect day. I was on my toes, I had him rocked, I did everything right."

He has been around the world, from South Africa to Italy to England, will journey absolutely anywhere on short notice

(Continued on page 67)

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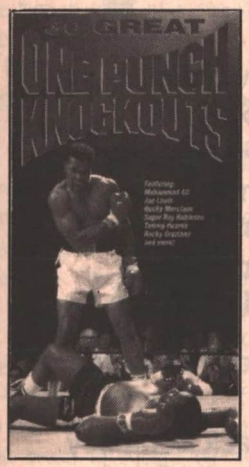

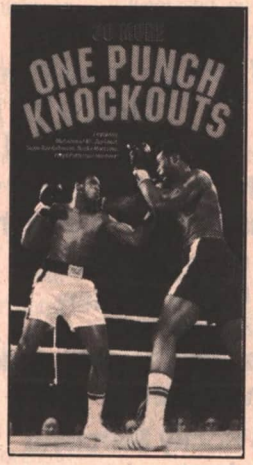

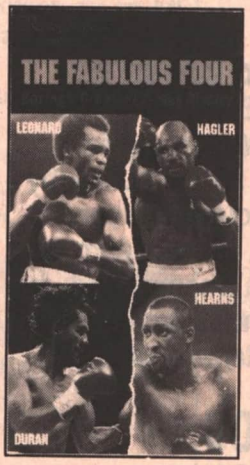

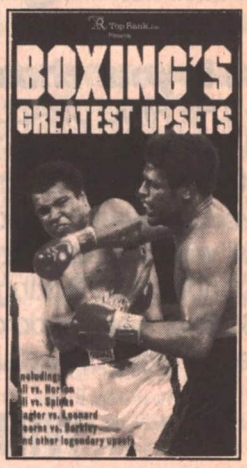

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Bigfoot Martin

(Continued from page 64)

for any fight, but hates traveling. Says he can't even stay in a hotel on vacation without getting edgy and thinking that someone is going to be punching him in the face in front of a crowd that night or the next.

Even his nickname is misleading. Bigfoot? His shoe size is a modest 9½.

"My friend started calling me that 'cause he thought I looked like Bigfoot, the creature," he says. "I used to be barefoot when I played basketball and football with the guys, and I have hair on my back and shoulders. People like to pull on it. Women like it because they can put their hands in it. I shaved it a couple of times, but it grew back faster."

It takes a special kind of person to put up with unflattering comparisons to some wild beast, to square off with a Foreman on eight days notice, or to fight a white South African in racially tense South Africa. Champions and marquee names don't have a monopoly on character and heart, they're just the ones whose displays of it we usually hear about. Bigfoot is someone who puts a crooked smile on paycheck fighters everywhere. He is proof that it is possible to compete in the same weight class, sometimes even the same ring, with Bowe, Moorer, and Foreman, and still be in an entirely different line of boxing work.

"What keeps me doing it *is* the money," he says. "I have to fight and I have to work a job or I'll be out there selling drugs."

Candid, yes. Sometimes too candid. Unlike most fighters, Bigfoot doesn't make excuses for his bad showings. He makes excuses for his good ones:

- "It must have been Witherspoon's bad night."
- "When I knocked Moorer down, I caught him off-guard. The punch didn't really have him that fazed."
- "Foreman was a legend. I was there when I fought him, but I wasn't. So I couldn't tell you how good or bad I was that night."

The Foot chuckles. "I'm an honest guy," he says. "I'm not gonna hype myself up to be something I'm not."

It's an attitude to admire, yet one more example of the contradictory nature of the man. These days, as he searches for a new full-time job and waits around for the next phone call sending him off to some distant place for a journeyman's wage, Bigfoot walks around with a medallion dangling from his neck. It cost him $5,000, chicken feed for George Foreman's ranch or a couple of suits hanging in Evander Holyfield's closet, but a hell of a lot of money to a guy who has to moonlight when he's not beneath the ring lights.

"This necklace is something I worked very hard for," he says. "It's very important to me. When I die, it's something I can leave to my son."

Engraved on the medallion are his full name, Everett Wayne Martin, his birthdate, July 4, 1964, his wish for "peace," and pictures of a burning bush and the planet Earth.

And if you flip it over, you'll find two more words on the back:

WORLD CHAMPION. ■

Holyfield-Bowe

(Continued from page 38)

aware of the champion's rapid counterpunches, and can't suffer a lapse in concentration. For Bowe to be most effective, he can't get trapped on the ropes or allow Holyfield to begin and end the exchanges. Holyfield has to take chances and pressure the challenger, but he can't get nailed with a three-point bomb. His defense will have to be better than it's ever been.

Simply put, Bowe can't afford to get lazy, and Holyfield can't afford to get caught.

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(Continued on page 68)

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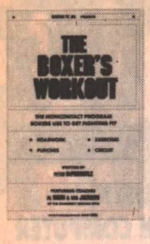

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Holyfield-Bowe

(Continued from page 67)

game. Last year, Duke survived a knock-down, drag-out game with Kentucky to reach the Final Four. The game was won in overtime with a buzzer-beating shot by Christian Laettner. Neither Holyfield nor Bowe has had a difficult match to carry them into the Final Four. Holyfield sleepwalked to victory over the aged Larry Holmes, and Bowe's win over Pierre Coetzer was the equivalent of scrimmaging vs. the junior varsity.

Bowe has been in only one close fight, squeaking by former WBA champion Tony Tubbs. Holyfield had to overcome stiff regular-season tests against Michael Dokes and Alex Stewart, and his near-knockout at the hands of Bert Cooper was possibly a portent of things to come.

For better or worse, Holyfield plays to the level of his competition. He'll be prepared to compete at whatever level Bowe reaches. Holyfield has excelled at crunch time; Bowe has yet to prove he can.

The Cheerleaders . . . Rah, Rah, Zam, Boom, Zap. With Holyfield ever the gentleman, and Bowe assuming an uncharacteristically modest posture, someone had to hype the fight. Enter Rock Newman and Lou Duva. Manager Newman has created ample publicity for Bowe with his sideline antics, which have included an in-the-ring assault on Elijah Tillery and a televised shoving match with rival manager Marc Roberts. Duva's tantrums and tirades, of course, are legendary. He says he's been fined so many times that he has a running tab with state athletic commissions across the country.

"When Bert Cooper hit Evander, Evander ran for the ropes," said Newman at a New York press conference. "And if it wasn't for the ropes, he'd have run into the stands."

Duva countered by presenting Bowe with size-42 boxing trunks. "These," he said, "should keep your big butt from catching cold."

Keep the insults flying, fellas, but please, no miniskirts and saddle shoes.

At the buzzer . . . An argument can be made for both fighters. Bowe has the size and power, while Holyfield has the will and conditioning. But the difference will be experience. The champion won't fold the first time Bowe hits him. Instead, he'll bring the fight to a level of intensity Bowe has never seen. Holyfield by decision. ■

STAFF PREDICTIONS

Steve Farhood, Editor-In-Chief: Bowe is bigger and has a better punch. He's also tough on the inside, which is unusual for a tall fighter. Holyfield's only chance will come in the middle rounds, when Bowe's focus might waver. Nonetheless, Bowe on points.

Jeff Ryan, Managing Editor: In a battle of hearts and minds, Holyfield has no heavyweight peer, but I think Bowe's right cross and uppercut will end the action long before the intangibles can come into play. Look for a TKO in the eighth round.

Joseph C. Tintle, Associate Editor: Riddick Bowe is the legitimate heavyweight opponent Holyfield has never fought. Bowe is strong and has the tools to beat the champ. And I think he has the heart. Bowe by decision.

Ed Maloney, Associate Editor: Although I've been critical of Holyfield, he's still undefeated, and his victories have been one-sided. Bowe had his hands full with Tony Tubbs and Pierre Coetzer. Nuff said. Holyfield by decision.

Stu Saks, Associate Publisher: Based on his fights prior to winning the title, Holyfield appears to be capable of turning his game up a notch in a tough bout. He has much to prove in this fight, and he will do just that, by unanimous decision.

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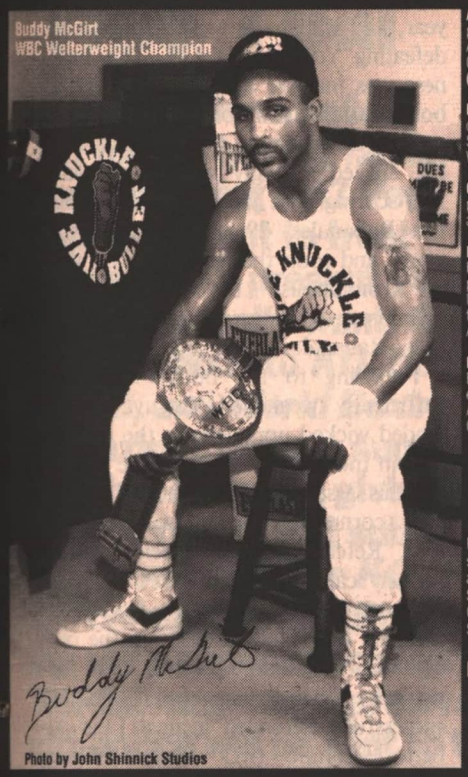

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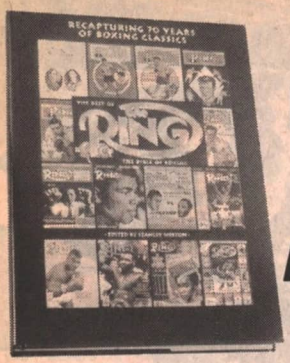

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Ringside Reports

(Continued from page 52)

Katsuya Onizuka KO 5 Kenichi Matsumura,

Tokyo, Japan—Unbeaten speedster Onizuka, 115, proved too sharp, quick, and strong for veteran compatriot Matsumura, 115, and pumelled the onrushing challenger into submission at the 1:26 mark before 13,000 fans at the Japan Martial Arts Hall. It was the winner's first defense of the WBA junior bantamweight title.

Onizuka, 22, looked impressive, penetrating with jabs and one-twos. The 32-year-old Matsumura furiously attacked with roundhouse blows. The champion's defense, however, remained tight.

In the fourth, Onizuka struck with a hook to the face, and a followup right hand drove Matsumura to the ropes. Referee Ken Morita issued a standing eight-count. Seconds later, Onizuka scored a knockdown. The bout could have been stopped, but the bell came to the challenger's rescue. When Onizuka pinned Matsumura, 12-6-1 (8), to the ropes in the fifth, Morita didn't hesitate to call a halt.

After four rounds, all three judges, Panama's Rogelio Perez, and Japan's Hiroyuki Tezaki and Takeshi Shimakawa, had Onizuka ahead by 40-34.

In April, Onizuka captured the title that had been vacated by longtime champion Khaosai Galaxy. He was crowned after scoring a hotly disputed 12-round decision over Thailand's Thalerngsak Sithbaobay. A rematch is likely for 1993; Sithbaobay is ranked second by the WBA. Onizuka, 20-0 (17), will next face the mandatory challenger, Mexico's Armando Castro.

This was Matsumura's fourth try at the title. In previous attempts, he had failed vs. Galaxy (twice) and reigning WBC champion Sung Kil Moon.

Promoter: Kyoei Promotions

(9-11-92)

Joe Koizumi

Victor Rabanales KO 9 Joichiro Tatsuyoshi,

Osaka, Japan—Mexico's rough-and-tumble Rabanales, 117½, battered the previously unbeaten Tatsuyoshi, 117¼, from all angles and impressively halted the local favorite at the 1:19 mark before 15,000 fans at the Osaka Castle Hall. The bout was a title unification of sorts; Rabanales was the interim WBC bantamweight champion, and Tatsuyoshi the official titleholder. (Tatsuyoshi underwent eye surgery last year, and Rabanales was crowned after defeating Yong Hoon Lee. The Japanese was inactive for 12 months.) The bout cleared up a confusing situation.

The 22-year-old Tatsuyoshi, 7-1-1 (6), started strongly vs. his awkward foe, scoring with jabs and solid rights. But Rabanales, 29, kept coming forward, and took the second round with his roundhouse blows. Tatsuyoshi countered to capture the third. After that, Rabanales dominated.

Punching to the body, Rabanales sufficiently weakened Tatsuyoshi. He landed wicked uppercuts to the midsection in the eighth, and when he continued his assault in the ninth, Tatsuyoshi's corner tossed a towel into the ring. Referee Richard Steele simultaneously called a halt.

Tatsuyoshi was clearly affected by the long layoff. Rabanales, on the other hand, was sharp. He has been particularly active, having beaten Lee, and successfully defended against Luis Alberto Ocampo (KO 4) and Chang Kyun Oh (W 12).

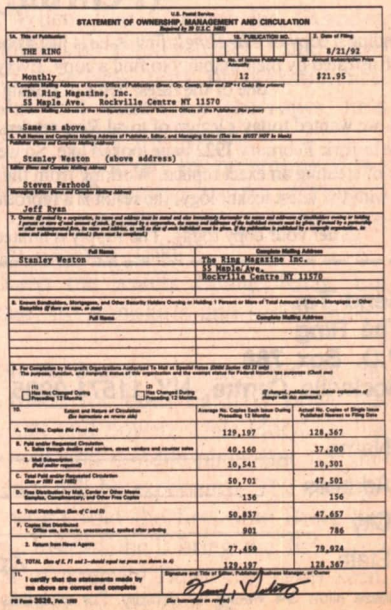
After eight rounds, Rabanales, 34-10-2 (19), led on all cards. Tony Castellano had it 79-74, Dr. James Jen-Kin 78-73, and Herbert Minn 79-74. The three judges were from the USA.

There have been 54 world title fights pitting Mexicans vs. Japanese. The former lead by a score of 37-14-3.

Promoter: Teiken Promotions

(9-17-92)

Joe Koizumi■



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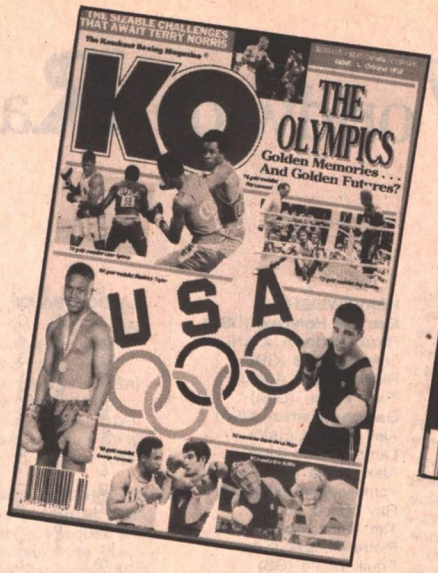

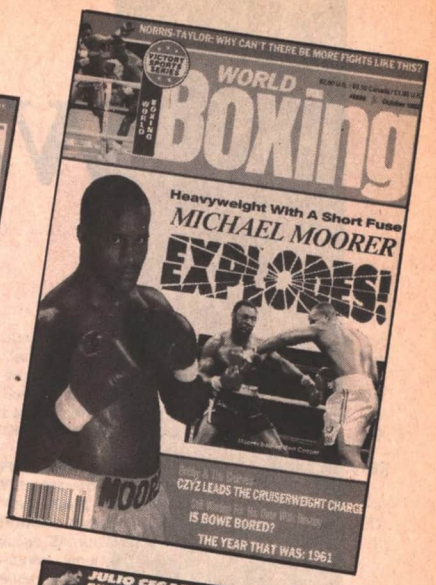

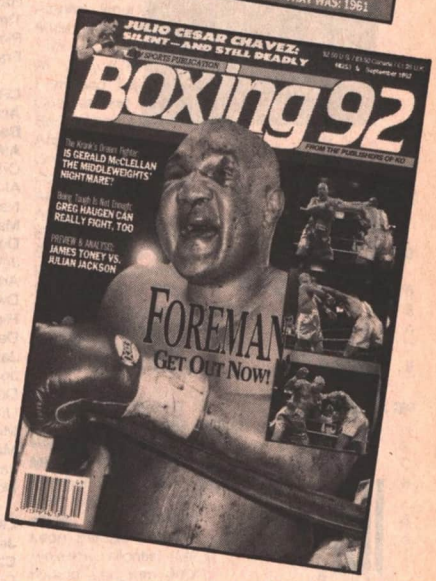

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Worldwide Ratings

WBC as of August

WBA as of July

IBF as of September

HEAVYWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Evander Holyfield (USA)	C	C	C
Razor Ruddock (CAN)	1	2	4
Lennox Lewis (GB)	2	3	3
Riddick Bowe (USA)	3	1	1
Tony Tucker (USA)	4	5	9
George Foreman (USA)	5	4	2
Alex Stewart (JAM)	6	12	10
Larry Holmes (USA)	7	-	12
Alex Garcia (USA)	8	10	-
Tommy Morrison (USA)	9	9	7
Ray Mercer (USA)	10	8	6
Tim Witherspoon (USA)	14	6	-
Pierre Coetzer (SA)	-	7	5
Frank Bruno (GB)	18	-	8

CRUISERWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Anaclet Wamba (FRA)	C	-	-
Bobby Czyz (USA)	-	C	-
Alfred Cole (USA)	4	-	C
Orlin Norris (USA)	1	1	1
Akim Tafer (FRA)	2	2	11
Nate Miller (USA)	3	-	9
Massimiliano Duran (ITA)	5	-	-
Dennis Andries (GB)	6	9	-
Jeff Lampkin (USA)	7	-	-
Arthur Williams (USA)	8	4	5
Dwight Muhammad Qawi (USA)	9	6	-
Richard Mason (USA)	10	-	-
Derek Angol (GB)	11	3	7
James Warring (USA)	-	5	4
Johnny Nelson (GB)	13	7	-
Don Lalonde (CAN)	-	8	-
Uriah Grant (USA)	-	10	3
Mike Hunter (USA)	-	-	2
Marcelio Figueroa (ARG)	14	-	6
Jason Waller (USA)	23	-	8
Norbert Eksasi (CAM)	12	-	10

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Jeff Harding (AUSTRL)	C	-	-
Charles Williams (USA)	-	-	C
David Vedder (USA)	1	-	-
Virgil Hill (USA)	2	2	3
Frank Tate (USA)	3	1	1
Randall Yonker (USA)	4	9	-
Crawford Ashley (GB)	5	8	-
Henry Maske (GER)	6	3	5
Andrew Maynard (USA)	7	11	-
Anthony Hembrick (USA)	8	-	-
Don Lalonde (CAN)	9	-	-
Wan Sub Lee (KOR)	10	7	-
Thomas Hearns (USA)	-	4	-
Fabrice Tiozzo (FRA)	16	5	-
Saul Montana (MEX)	17	6	4
Eric Nicoletta (FRA)	14	10	10
Tim Hillie (USA)	-	12	2
Esteban Pizarro (PR)	-	-	6
Andrea Maggi (ITA)	-	-	7
Robert Folley (USA)	-	-	8
Earnie Magdaleno (USA)	20	-	9

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Mauro Galvano (ITA)	C	-	-
Victor Cordoba (PAN)	-	C	-
Iran Barkley (USA)	-	-	C
Nigel Benn (GB)	1	4	9
Frank Nicotra (FRA)	2	3	4
Michael Nunn (USA)	3	1	2
Tony Thornton (USA)	4	2	1
Henry Wharton (GB)	5	12	8
Merqui Sosa (DR)	6	6	11
Tim Littles (USA)	7	5	5
Darrin Van Horn (USA)	8	-	3
Vincenzo Nardiello (ITA)	9	7	-
Fidel Castro Smith (GB)	10	9	-
Frank Liles (USA)	13	8	-
James Cook (GB)	12	10	-
Mwehu Beya (ITA)	14	-	6
Jean Tsidjo (FRA)	18	-	7
Doug DeWitt (USA)	16	-	10

MIDDLEWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Julian Jackson (VI)	C	-	-
Reggie Johnson (USA)	-	C	-
James Toney (USA)	-	-	C
Sumbu Kalambay (ITA)	1	2	5
Lamar Parks (USA)	2	1	4
Roy Jones (USA)	3	4	2
Mike McCallum (JAM)	4	5	3
Herol Graham (GB)	5	-	10
Bernard Hopkins (USA)	6	8	1
Steve Collins (USA)	7	3	8
Jorge Castro (ARG)	8	-	-
Frederic Seillier (FRA)	9	-	-
Thomas Tate (USA)	10	-	-
Chad Parker (USA)	-	6	-
Joe Gatti (USA)	15	7	-
Otis Grant (CAN)	12	9	-
Francesco Dell'Aquila (ITA)	14	10	11
Glenn Wolfe (USA)	-	-	6
Percy Harris (USA)	16	-	7
Tyrone Trice (USA)	13	-	9

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Terry Norris (USA)	C	-	-
Vinny Pazienza (USA)	-	C	-
Gianfranco Rosi (ITA)	-	-	C
Simon Brown (USA)	1	7	-
Aaron Davis (USA)	2	2	12
Jean-Claude Fontana (FRA)	3	5	5
Troy Waters (AUSTRL)	4	-	7
Julio Cesar Vasquez (ARG)	5	1	6
Carl Daniels (USA)	6	-	3
Yung Kil Chung (KOR)	7	3	-
Chris Pyatt (GB)	8	-	-
William Jones (USA)	9	-	-
Gilbert Dele (FRA)	10	6	1
Hitoshi Kamiyama (JAP)	14	4	-
Vernon Phillips (USA)	-	8	-
Jorge Castro (ARG)	-	9	11
Stephen Martinez (USA)	21	10	-
Vincent Pettway (USA)	11	11	2
Gilbert Baptist (USA)	-	-	4
Wally Swift (GB)	12	-	8
Lloyd Honeyghan (GB)	18	-	9
Gilberto Barreto (COL)	-	-	10

WELTERWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
James McGirt (USA)	C	-	-
Meldrick Taylor (USA)	-	C	-
Maurice Blocker (USA)	-	-	C
Genaro Leon (MEX)	1	4	9
Santos Cardona (PR)	2	-	-
Glenwood Brown (USA)	3	3	8
Crisanto Espana (VEN)	4	1	2
Yori Boy Campas (MEX)	5	6	3
David Gonzalez (USA)	6	-	-
Vernon Phillips (USA)	7	-	-
Jong Oh Park (KOR)	8	5	-
Donovan Boucher (CAN)	9	9	-
Ludovic Proto (FRA)	10	7	11
Luis Gabriel Garcia (VEN)	11	2	1
Buck Smith (USA)	12	8	5
Francisco Castillejo (SPA)	-	10	-
Kevin Pompey (USA)	19	-	4
Stephan Johnson (USA)	26	-	6
Larry Barnes (USA)	-	-	7
Angel Hernandez (SP)	-	-	10

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Julio Cesar Chavez (MEX)	C	-	-
Akinobu Hiranaka (JAP)	-	C	-
Pernell Whitaker (USA)	-	-	C
Juan M. Coggi (ARG)	1	1	7
Hector Camacho (PR)	2	-	-
Terrence Alli (USA)	3	2	1
Greg Haugen (USA)	4	-	-

Angel Hernandez (PR)	5	10	-
Charles Murray (USA)	6	-	2
Frankie Randall (USA)	7	-	-
Andy Holligan (GB)	8	-	5
Vince Phillips (USA)	9	-	3
Felix Trinidad (PR)	10	-	9
Edwin Rosario (PR)	15	3	-
Ramon Zavala (VEN)	25	4	6
Rodolfo Aguilar (PAN)	-	5	-
Morris East (PHIL)	28	6	-
Valery Kayumba (ZAI)	13	7	-
Donald Stokes (USA)	21	8	-
Loreto Garza (USA)	17	9	-
Rafael Pineda (COL)	-	-	4
Rodney Moore (USA)	-	-	8
William Ruiz (COL)	-	-	10

LIGHTWEIGHT	**WBC**	**WBA**	**IBF**
Miguel Gonzalez (MEX)	C	8	-
Joey Gamache (USA)	-	C	-
Darryll Tyson (USA)	1	3	5
Sharmba Mitchell (USA)	2	4	-
Tony Lopez (USA)	3	6	7
Rafael Ruelas (USA)	4	10	11
Wilfredo Rocha (COL)	5	-	9
Ramon Marchena (MEX)	6	-	-
Jean Mendy (FRA)	7	9	10
Jorge Paez (MEX)	8	5	6
Kostya Tszyu (CIS)	9	-	-
David Sample (USA)	10	-	-
Dingaan Thobela (SA)	-	1	8
Gussie Nazarov (CIS)	-	2	-
Chil Sung Chun (KOR)	-	7	-
Freddie Pendleton (USA)	15	-	1
Tracy Spann (USA)	12	-	2
Eduardo Molina (COL)	19	-	3
Miguel Julio (COL)	22	-	4

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHT	**WBC**	**WBA**	**IBF**
Azumah Nelson (GHA)	C	-	-
Genaro Hernandez (USA)	-	C	-
John-John Molina (PR)	-	-	C
Gabe Ruelas (USA)	1	2	3
Jeff Fenech (AUSTRL)	2	-	-
Bernard Taylor (USA)	3	10	1
Calvin Grove (USA)	4	4	5
Coco Ramirez (MEX)	5	-	2
Regilio Tuur (HOLL)	6	-	12
Renato Cornett (AUSTRL)	7	9	11
Jimmy Garcia (COL)	8	-	-
Victor Hugo Paz (ARG)	9	-	-
Jimmi Bredahl (DEN)	10	3	-
Yuji Watanabe (JAP)	17	1	-
Juan Negron (PR)	14	5	-
Harold Warren (USA)	20	6	-
Jesus Gutierrez (PAN)	-	7	-
Marcos Guevara (VEN)	22	8	-
Orlando Marimon (COL)	-	-	4
Wilson Rodriguez (DR)	-	-	6
Fernando Caicedo (COL)	-	-	7
November Ntshingila (SA)	-	-	8
Eugene Speed (USA)	12	-	9
Jose Vidal (USA)	16	-	10

FEATHERWEIGHT	**WBC**	**WBA**	**IBF**
Paul Hodkinson (GB)	C	-	-
Yung Kyun Park (KOR)	-	C	-
Manuel Medina (MEX)	-	-	C
Kevin Kelley (USA)	1	1	2
Ever Beleno (COL)	2	7	6
Goyo Vargas (MEX)	3	-	-
James Leija (USA)	4	6	3
Jose Ramos (DR)	5	-	-
Jemal Hinton (USA)	6	3	-
Tom Johnson (USA)	7	2	1
Miguel Arrozal (PHIL)	8	-	-
Troy Dorsey (USA)	9	-	-
Fabrice Benichou (FRA)	10	-	-
Luisito Espinosa (PHIL)	14	4	-
Eloy Rojas (VEN)	-	5	-
Giovanni Nieves (VEN)	-	8	-
Tae Shik Chun (KOR)	30	9	-
Seiji Asakawa (JAP)	-	10	-
Orlando Soto (PAN)	-	12	4
Louie Espinoza (USA)	12	-	5
Tony Green (USA)	15	-	7
Maurizio Stecca (ITA)	19	-	8
Moises Pedroza (COL)	-	-	9
Ricardo Cepeda (USA)	11	-	10

JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHT	**WBC**	**WBA**	**IBF**
Tracy Patterson (USA)	C	-	-
Wilfredo Vasquez (PR)	-	C	-
Welcome Ncita (SA)	-	-	C
Daniel Zaragoza (MEX)	1	-	-
Jesus Salud (USA)	2	7	2
Kennedy McKinney (USA)	3	1	1
Julio Gervacio (DR)	4	-	4
Rudy Zavala (USA)	5	-	-
Luis Mendoza (COL)	6	3	10
Jose Garcia (DR)	7	-	-
Jae Won Choi (KOR)	8	2	-
Thierry Jacob (FRA)	9	8	-
Otilio Gallegos (MEX)	10	-	-
Hiroaki Yokota (JAP)	19	4	-
Freddy Cruz (DR)	15	5	-
Antonio Cermeno (VEN)	-	6	-
Adalberto Acevedo (PAN)	-	9	-
Jose Rincones (VEN)	-	10	5
Richard Duran (USA)	29	-	3
Sakda Sawpungdee (THAI)	-	-	6
Cesar Polanco (DR)	24	-	7
Ray Minus (BAH)	22	-	8
Luisito Espinosa (PHIL)	-	-	9

BANTAMWEIGHT	**WBC**	**WBA**	**IBF**
Joichiro Tatsuyoshi (JAP)	C	-	-
Victor Rabanales* (MEX)	C	-	-
Eddie Cook (USA)	-	C	-
Orlando Canizales (USA)	-	-	C
Eliecer Julio (COL)	1	1	10
Chang Kyun Oh (KOR)	2	-	-
Junior Jones (USA)	3	2	1
Gerardo Martinez (USA)	4	-	8
Clarence Adams (USA)	5	8	3
Daorung Chuvatana (THAI)	6	3	-
Yong Hoon Lee (KOR)	7	6	-
Javier Leon (MEX)	8	9	9
Johnny Bredahl (DEN)	9	10	-
Vincenzo Belcastro (ITA)	10	-	-
Yasuey Yakushiji (JAP)	11	4	-
Israel Contreras (VEN)	20	5	-
Abraham Torres (VEN)	-	7	6
Juvenal Berrio (COL)	-	-	2
Harold Mestre (COL)	26	12	4
Ricardo Vargas (MEX)	-	-	5
Junai Ramayana (INDO)	-	-	7

***Interim Champion**

JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHT	**WBC**	**WBA**	**IBF**
Sung Kil Moon (KOR)	C	-	-
Katsuya Onizuka (JAP)	-	C	-
Robert Quiroga (USA)	-	-	C
Greg Richardson (USA)	1	-	-
Joel Luna (MEX)	2	7	1
Thalerngsak Sithbaobay (THAI)	3	2	-
Jose Luis Bueno (MEX)	4	6	2
Armando Salazar (MEX)	5	-	-
Elvis Alvarez (COL)	6	-	-
Armando Castro (MEX)	7	1	7
Josefino Suarez (MEX)	8	-	-
Cecilio Espino (MEX)	9	-	-
Carlos Salazar (ARG)	10	-	-
Hyun Chul Lee (KOR)	25	3	-
Kotaro Hayashi (JAP)	19	4	10
Kenji Matsumura (JAP)	13	5	6
Gerry Penalosa (PHIL)	12	8	-
Nana Konadu (GHA)	14	9	-
Jung Il Byun (KOR)	11	10	-
Carlos Mercado (COL)	18	-	3
Vincenzo Belcastro (ITA)	-	-	4
Samuel Duran (PHIL)	-	-	5
Lamhot Simamora (INDO)	21	11	8
Ole Kiatwonway (THAI)	-	-	9

FLYWEIGHT	**WBC**	**WBA**	**IBF**
Yuri Arbachakov (CIS)	C	-	-
Yong Kang Kim (KOR)	-	C	-
Rodolfo Blanco (COL)	-	-	C
Isaias Zamudio (USA)	1	-	1
Alberto Jimenez (MEX)	2	-	-
Muangchai Kittikasem (THAI)	3	11	-
Yun Un Chin (KOR)	4	3	-
Al Kotey (GHA)	5	4	6
Francisco Tejedor (COL)	6	-	-
Cuauhtemoc Gomez (MEX)	7	-	-
Seung Koo Lee (KOR)	8	-	-
Antonio Perez (MEX)	9	-	-
Scotty Olson (CAN)	10	2	2
David Griman (VEN)	-	1	-
Alvaro Mercado (COL)	30	5	10
Aquiles Guzman (VEN)	-	6	-
Evangelio Perez (PAN)	-	7	-
Salvator Fanni (ITA)	14	8	8
Hisashi Tokushima (JAP)	17	9	-
Dave McAuley (IRE)	22	10	5
Pichit Sitbangphachan (THAI)	26	-	3
Tongchai Kittikasem (THAI)	-	-	4
Rafael Caban (PR)	-	-	7
Harold Grey (COL)	-	-	9

LIGHT FLYWEIGHT	**WBC**	**WBA**	**IBF**
Humberto Gonzalez (MEX)	C	-	-
Hiroka Ioka (JAP)	-	C	-
Michael Carbajal (USA)	-	-	C
Melchor Cob Castro (MEX)	1	8	6
Nam Hoon Cha (KOR)	2	4	-
Javier Varguez (MEX)	3	-	8
Leon Salazar (PAN)	4	-	4
Alejandro Montiel (MEX)	5	7	-
Kwang Sun Kim (KOR)	6	9	-
Domingo Sosa (DR)	7	-	-
Napa Kiatwanchi (THAI)	8	-	-
Shiro Yahiro (Japan)	9	6	9
Jesus Chong (MEX)	10	-	-
Myung Woo Yuh (KOR)	-	1	12
Juan A. Torres (PAN)	13	2	2
Leo Gamez (VEN)	-	3	-
Robinson Cuesta (PAN)	28	5	1
Benedicto Murillo (PAN)	22	10	-
Fahlan Lukmingkwan (THAI)	-	-	3
Azadin Anhar (INDO)	-	-	5
Jesus Zuniga (COL)	-	-	7
Jacob Matlala (SA)	-	-	10

STRAWWEIGHT	**WBC**	**WBA**	**IBF**
Ricardo Lopez (MEX)	C	-	-
Hi Yong Choi (KOR)	-	C	-
Phalan Lukmingkwan (THAI)	-	-	C
Rocky Lim (JAP)	1	5	-
Ala Villamor (PHIL)	2	7	1
Chana Porpaoin (THAI)	3	1	-
Carlos Murillo (PAN)	4	3	2
Hideyuki Ohashi (JAP)	5	2	-
Kwang Soo Oh (KOR)	6	11	-
Rafael Torres (DR)	7	4	3
Sung Woo Lee (KOR)	8	8	-
Andy Tabanas (PHIL)	9	10	12
Ju Sup Shin (KOR)	10	-	-
Marcelino Bolivar (VEN)	24	6	9
Manny Melchor (PHIL)	16	9	-
Felix Naranjo (COL)	-	-	4
Ratanapol Vorapin (THAI)	-	-	5
Alejandro Montiel (MEX)	-	-	6
Carlos Rodriguez (VEN)	22	-	7
Alfredo Xeque (MEX)	19	-	8
Said Iskandar (INDO)	28	-	10

The RING CLASSIC

CARTER IS A REAL CHAMP

From The Ring, January 1952

By Harry Winkler

Los Angeles—(Special to *The Ring)*—The crowd of 8,000, which had been noisy and excited for one whole hour, suddenly became quiet and emotionless at Olympic Arena. Jimmy Lennon, the dapper, silver-voiced announcer of the Olympic, had walked to the center of the ring and was about to inform them of the winner of the hard-fought 15-round bout between Art Aragon, the "Golden Boy" of Los Angeles, and Jimmy Carter of New York, world lightweight king, which had kept them in such a state of excitement for the past hour.

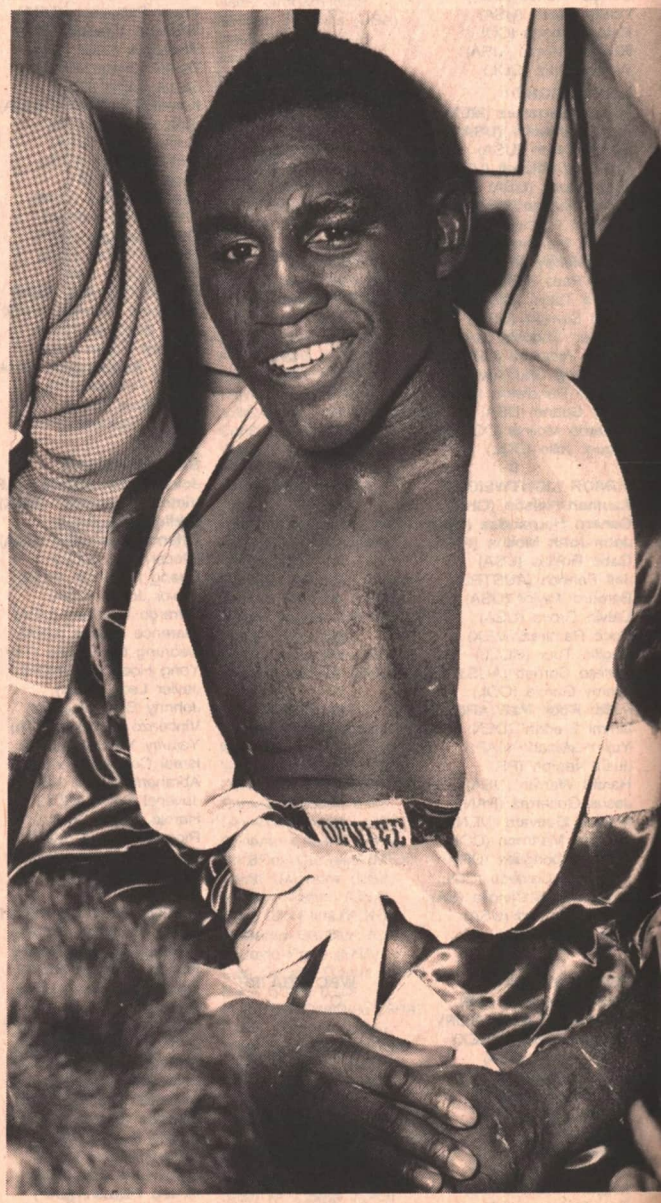
These thousands weren't suddenly quiet and straining their ears because there was any doubt in their minds as what to they were about to hear, for they knew only too well. It was only because this was the solemn moment, like "We, the jury, find the defendant . . . " or "I now pronounce you man and wife." And then it came:

"By unanimous decision, the winner and still lightweight champion of the world—James Carter." Thus California's hopes had been shattered. The Pacific Coast lightweight ace had been unequal to this occasion, despite his good work.

However, this was the second time the crowd had become very quiet. The first was during the lull between the referee's instructions and the starting gong. As a rule, there is an undertone among crowds—a buzzing—during this period of a fight, but this assemblage seemed to become affected by the demeanor of the principals. There was no dashing into the ring, no exaggerated hand-waving nor theatricals. Neither indicated an air of confidence. Both wore grim faces and appeared unconscious of their handlers' preparations. They were standing in their corners, jaws set, lips tightly drawn, looking at the floor, and then—the gong!

***

Carter rushed out and threw a right, which missed. However, it caused little furor, for the gesture looked more like a means of exhaust for pent-up emotions, rather than a determined assault. And this immediate offense apparently released Aragon's tension also, and the punching started.



By soundly defeating California's Art Aragon, lightweight champion James Carter proved that his title-winning effort against Ike Williams hadn't been a fluke.

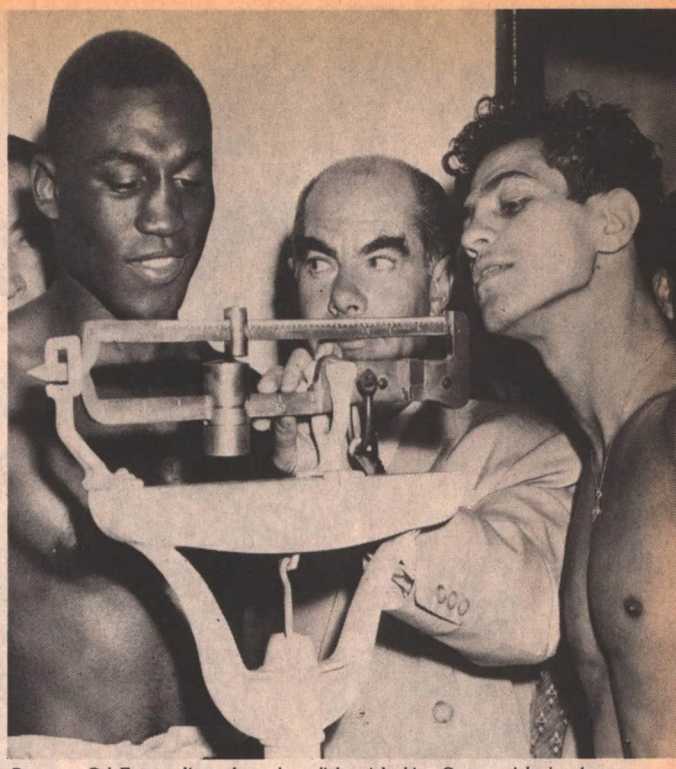
Carter's followers had some anxious moments in this early action, for Aragon was punching with power, and Carter was moving slowly and much too carelessly. But, luckily for the champion, Art was missing most of his shots. However, Aragon scored with a few solid blows to cop the opening round.

The second round gave the crowd its first big thrill—and Carter his first scare. Aragon nailed Jimmy with a terrific left hook which staggered the champion and caused him to sag. One glove touched the canvas, which made it a knockdown, although not for a count. And then for a whole minute it looked as though there was to be a new champion.

Carter was hurt, and Aragon landed lefts and rights that kept Jimmy in weakened condition. But he weathered the storm by first backing away, then ducking inside and holding. Then Aragon tired, and before the round was over, Carter hurt Art with a right to the jaw, and an instant later knocked his mouthpiece out.

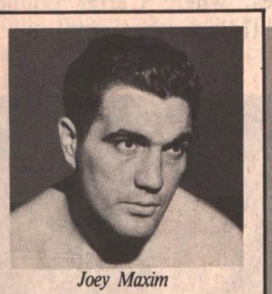
Both were slowed down in the third, and neither had an advantage. Each scored a few solid blows. Carter picked up steam in the fourth, and his boxing improved. He started jabbing Aragon and caused Art to miss most of his punches.

Carter began moving inside in the fifth and jolted the Golden Boy with short uppercuts and hooks. Aragon landed one good blow, a hard right to the jaw,



Promoter Cal Eaton adjusts the scale as lightweight king Carter weighs in. Among the interested observers is Aragon. Both champion and challenger weighed 134¼.

THE RING RATINGS, *January 1952*



Joey Maxim

HEAVYWEIGHTS

World Champ: Jersey Joe Walcott

1. Ezzard Charles
2. Rocky Marciano
3. Roland LaStarza
4. Joe Louis
5. Bob Baker
6. Clarence Henry
7. Cesar Brion
8. Rex Layne
9. Hein ten Hoff
10. Joe Baksi

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS

World Champ: Joey Maxim

1. Archie Moore
2. Harry Matthews
3. Don Cockell
4. Wesbury Bascom
5. Bob Satterfield
6. Harold Johnson
7. Bob Murphy
8. Yolande Pompey
9. Dan Bucceroni
10. Danny Nardico

MIDDLEWEIGHTS

World Champ: Ray Robinson

1. Randolph Turpin
2. Walter Cartier
3. Dave Sands
4. Eugene Hairston
5. Laurent Dauthuille
6. Robert Villemain
7. Rocky Graziano
8. Ronnie Delaney
9. Rocky Castellani
10. Ray Barnes

WELTERWEIGHTS

World Champ: Title Vacant

1. Kid Gavilan (Americas Champion)
2. Charley Humez (European Champion)
3. Billy Graham
4. Freddie Dawson
5. Gil Turner
6. Johnny Bratton
7. Johnny Saxton
8. Charley Fusari
9. Don Williams
10. Pierre Langlois

LIGHTWEIGHTS

World Champ: James Carter

1. Art Aragon
2. Joe Brown
3. Virgil Akins
4. Luther Rawlings
5. Paddy DeMarco
6. Henry Davis
7. Johnny Gonsalves
8. George Araujo
9. Del Flanagan
10. Georgie Dunn

FEATHERWEIGHTS

World Champ: Sandy Saddler

1. Willie Pep
2. Ray Famechon
3. Roy Ankarah
4. Federico Plummer
5. Ernest Formenti
6. Ronnie Clayton
7. Percy Bassett
8. Lauro Salas
9. Red Top Davis
10. Luis de Santiago

BANTAMWEIGHTS

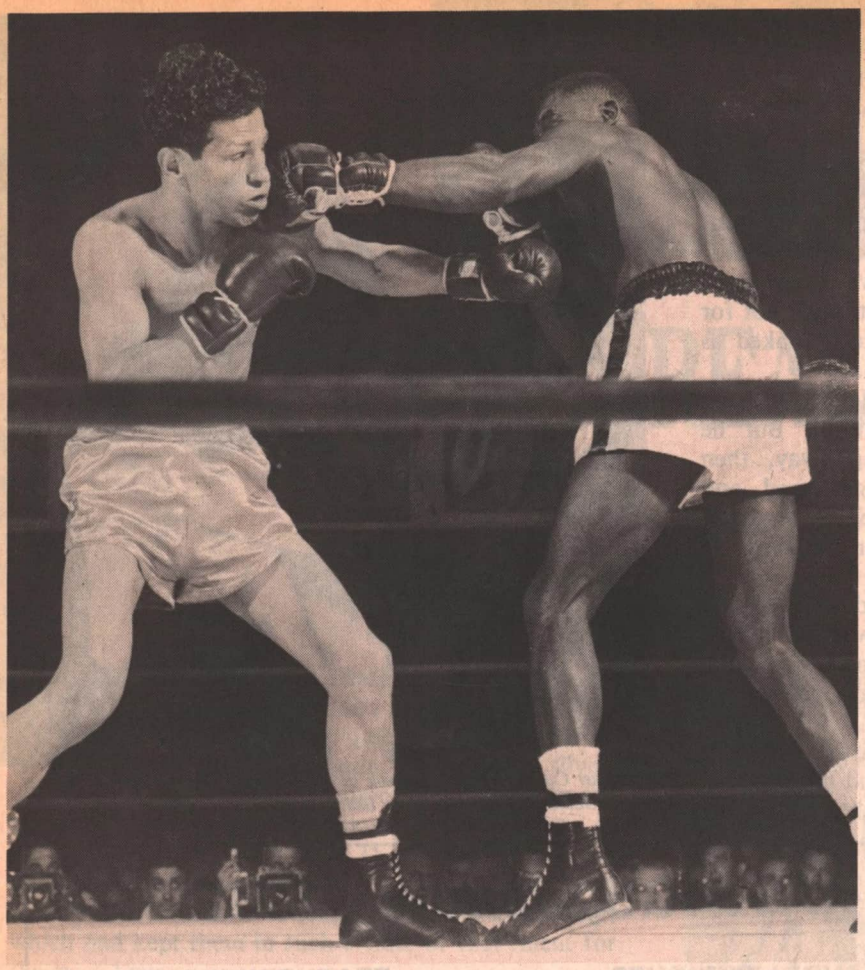
World Champ: Vic Toweel

1. Jimmy Carruthers
2. Peter Keenan
3. Luis Romero
4. Maurice Sandeyron
5. Jean Sneyers
6. Emile Chemama
7. Hadi Tijani
8. Gianni Zuddas
9. Alvaro Nuvoloni
10. Teddy Odus

FLYWEIGHTS

World Champ: Dado Marino

1. Terry Allen
2. Teddy Gardner
3. Vic Herman
4. Taffy Hancock
5. Johnny Gleason
6. Jimmy Laffin
7. Louis Skena
8. Charley Bohlot
9. Nazzareno Gianelli
10. Norman Tennant



Three months before their title fight, Aragon gave his fans hope by outpointing Carter over 10 rounds. In the rematch, Carter, a fighter of diverse skills, was able to control the bout both at long range and on the inside.

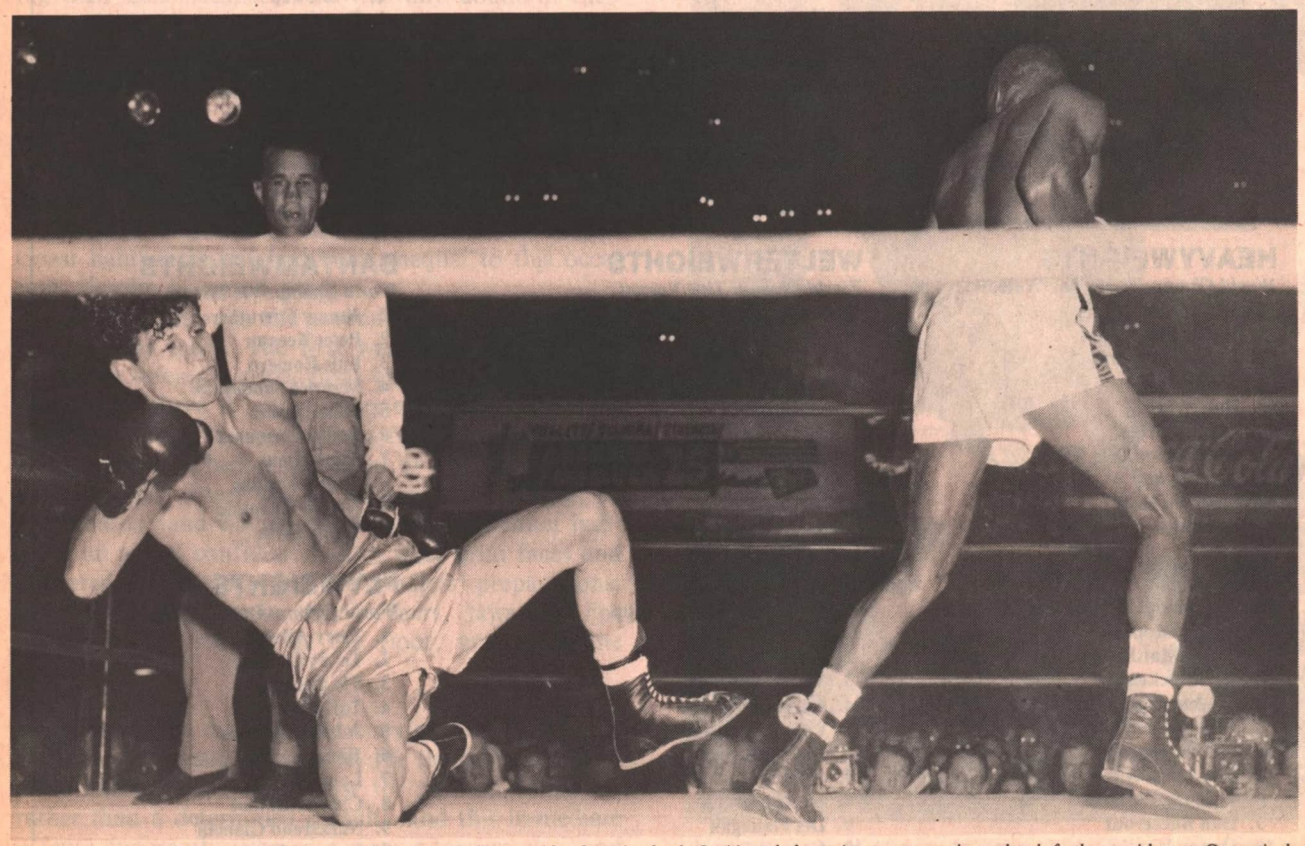
but Jimmy again knocked out Art's mouthpiece, this time way out into the audience.

***

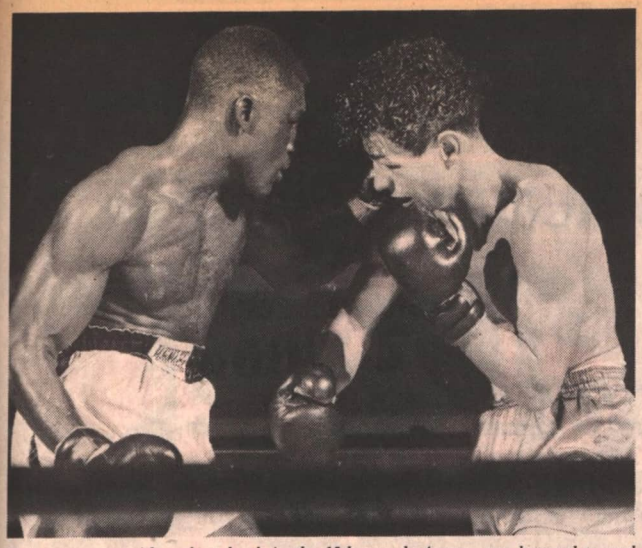
The sixth was the most thrilling round of the fight, and the most disastrous one for Aragon. Carter nailed Art with a terrific left hook, and down he went. He regained his feet at the count of three, but it was too soon. He was hurt. Carter belabored Aragon with lefts and rights, but before he could finish his wounded foe, he tired and started missing. Aragon recuperated and landed two solid rights before the end of the round.

The action slowed down in the next few rounds, for both had tired from a lot of missing. Aragon got in occasional hard blows, but most of the fighting was in close, which is Art's biggest weakness, and Carter had much the best of it, digging left hooks into Aragon's midsection and messing him up with short uppercuts.

Then came the torrid 12th. Carter whipped over a long left swing that landed on Aragon's chin, which he was wearing high at the time. The blow staggered Art into the ropes, where Carter pounded him with an assortment of punches.



The end almost came in the sixth, when Carter floored the challenger with a booming hook. Legitimately hurt, Aragon rose, only to absorb further punishment. Carter tired, however, before he could land a finishing punch, and Aragon was able to last the distance. (The referee is former junior welterweight champion Mushy Callahan.)



Carter connects with a short hook in the 15th round. Aragon was battered toward the finish, and the unanimous decision was well-received by the pro-Aragon crowd.

Aragon covered up during this bombardment and again outlasted a storm of leather, for Carter again tired in his effort, and it was Aragon who landed the last of the blows in the round. But they were also Art's last effective blows of the fight. Carter again laced Aragon in the 13th. When Art missed with a hard right, he lunged forward off-balance, and Carter whipped up an uppercut that almost tore Aragon's head off. The champion then rocked Art's head like a buoy in a rough sea.

Aragon had nothing left but his courage in the final two rounds and Carter hit him at will, but Jimmy's punching power had weakened, and he couldn't muster up enough oomph to upset his weary and battered foe. Had Carter been able to floor Art, it is doubtful that the golden boy would have had enough strength to regain his feet.

Carter received a cut over his left eye in the sixth; Aragon suffered a cut above his left eye in the 14th, and his left optic, which was injured in an earlier round, was almost swollen closed at the final bell.

Each weighed 134¼. The gate grossed an estimated $75,000, plus $35,000 for television rights.

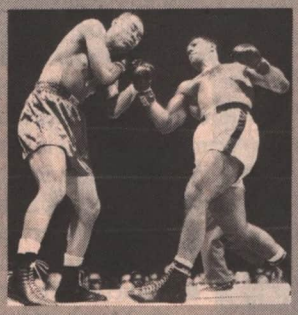
The bout definitely established one fact—Jimmy Carter is a real champion, a much better fighter than the public had generally tabbed him. Many fans skeptical of the New Yorker's ability had been inclined to attribute his victory over Ike Williams in New York to Ike's weight-making ordeal. But in his decisive triumph over Aragon, Carter convincingly demonstrated his titular fitness.

Jimmy may not be as devastating a puncher as Williams was at his peak, and may not have the flashiness of such a ring stylist as Ray Robinson, but he's a smooth mechanic who knows his trade. He's a good boxer at long range, knows how to handle himself in close quarters, and has a fine variety of combinations. He's a cool ring general at all times, doesn't become flustered, takes a good punch, and is most dangerous when hurt.

It was a bitter disappointment to California fans when their favorite, Art Aragon, failed in his bid for a world championship. But it was some consolation for them to know that when their Golden Boy lost, it was to a real champion. ■

THE RING, January 1952

The Cover: Fresh off his first defense, world lightweight champion James Carter is beginning to secure respect. The New York-based veteran won the title by stopping Ike Williams in May 1951. Six months and six non-title fights later, he kept the crown by outpointing California golden boy Art Aragon.

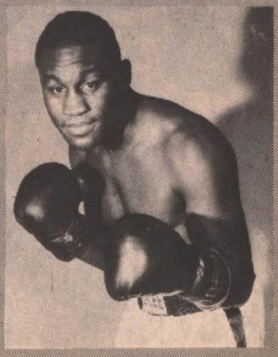


The End—For Sure: Publisher and Editor Nat Fleischer reports from ringside at Madison Square Garden, where unbeaten heavyweight prospect Rocky Marciano ended the comeback of 37-year-old former world champion Joe Louis by eighth-round kayo. Marciano's victory, wrote Fleischer, "brought to the sport new life, new spirit, and new fans, as did Louis when he . . . whipped Primo Carnera."

The Missing Giants: Where, author Jersey Jones, asks, have all the quality heavyweights gone? The shortage of good big men is not limited to the United States. Jones concludes that European champion Hein ten Hoff (Germany) appears to be the division's only foreign-born threat.

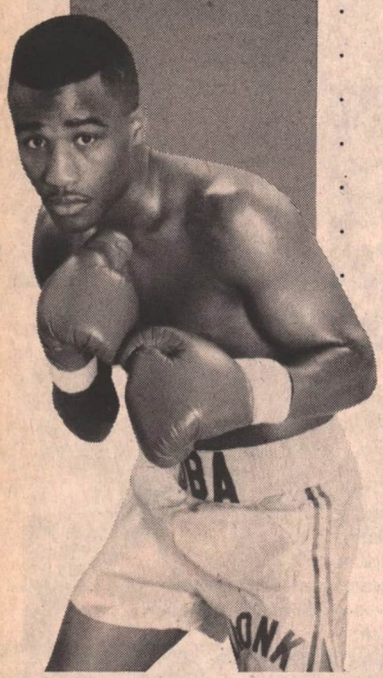
Ray's Two-Year Plan: Barney Nagler reveals Sugar Ray Robinson's plan to retire at the end of 1953. "They don't remember you for the great fights," said the middleweight champion. "They remember you the way you went out. I'm going to try to go out looking good."

Fighter Of The Month: Lightweight king James Carter (pictured) receives the honors for his title fight victory over Art Aragon. Runners-up include flyweight champion Dado Marino, who successfully defended against Terry Allen, and bantamweight champion Vic Toweel, who turned back Luis Romero.



Looking Ahead

By Steve Farhood



Carr: Out of the Kronk garage

ROCKIN' AT THE KRONK

Is the Kronk gym in a slump? Or is Emanuel Steward simply in the process of replenishing his stock? An update:

● Junior welterweight Oba Carr has departed. But Steward says his managerial contract doesn't expire for another year, and that if Carr tries to fight, he'll step in the way.

● Heavyweight Michael Moorer remains hopeful that charges will be dropped before his trial for aggravated assault, which is scheduled for November. Steward is aiming for a mid-1993 challenge of the survivor of the mini-tournament involving Evander Holyfield, Riddick Bowe, Razor Ruddock, and Lennox Lewis.

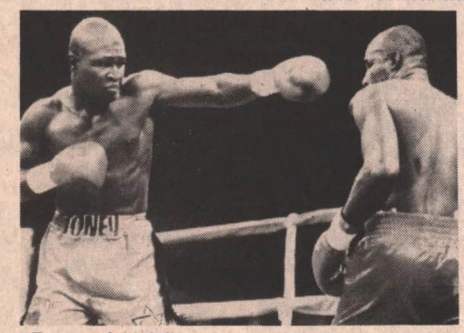
● Ageless cruiserweight Dennis Andries has *not* retired. Negotiations have begun to match him with WBA champion Bobby Czyz.

● Featherweight Jemal Hinton seems to be in hiding. Inactive since January, the Maryland-based contender hasn't been returning Steward's phone calls. According to Steward, Hinton has had a falling out with his father-trainer Junius.

● Among the '92 Olympians Steward hopes to sign for the Kronk: Americans Chris Byrd, Montell Griffin, and Danell Nicholson, and a sleeper, 6'3" Norwegian light heavyweight Ole Klemetsen.

STUCK IN THE MIDDLES

After the disappointing bout between IBF middleweight champion James Toney and former titlist Mike McCallum, it was reported that both fighters had exhausted themselves in making weight. For both Toney, 24, and McCallum, 35, a jump to super middleweight seemed imminent.



Toney and McCallum: Staying put?

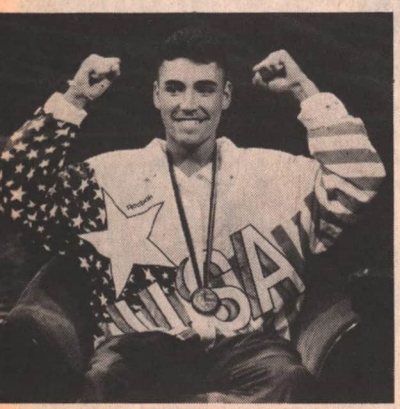
Truth is, *neither* fighter struggled to make 160 pounds. (Both scaled 158.) Toney would indeed like to fight at 168, and that's where his trainer, Bill Miller, wants him, too. But manager Jackie Kallen says he's going to stay put. It remains to be seen who will win the argument.

As for McCallum, he wants a try at WBC middleweight champion Julian Jackson. (In August 1986, McCallum kayoed Jackson in the second round of a junior middleweight title fight.)

"I want to shut him up," McCallum said. "I want to beat him up again."

In fact, promoter Dan Goossen offered McCallum a title fight at *154* pounds against WBC champion Terry Norris. McCallum's trainer, Eddie Futch, immediately turned it down.

Our guess: Look for Toney and McCallum to keep fighting at 160, at least for another big fight or two.

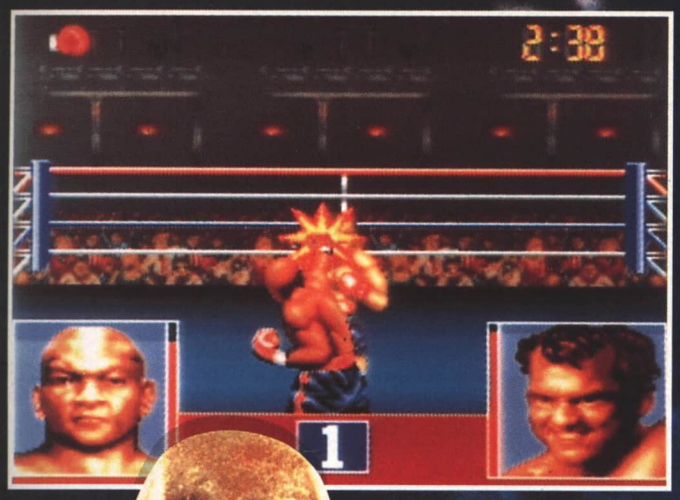


De La Hoya: Going for the green

LISTEN UP

Oscar De La Hoya, the USA's sole gold medal winner in Barcelona, surprised everyone by signing with veteran booking agent **Bob Mittleman** and **Steve Nelson**, the former co-manager of **Bonecrusher Smith**. It had been anticipated that De La Hoya would hook up with **Shelly Finkel** and **Lou Duva**. Mittleman and Nelson reportedly paid him a seven-figure bonus. ■

IT'S A KO!



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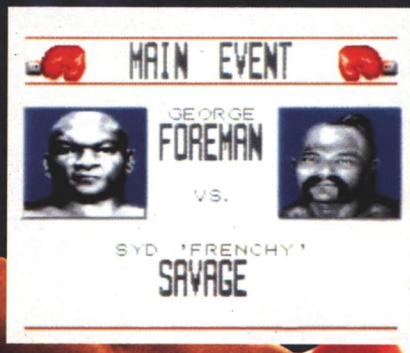

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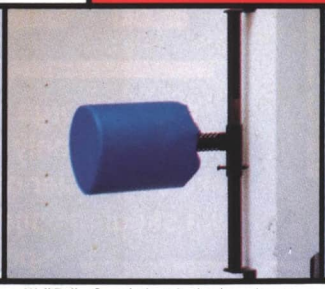

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Free Standing Heavy Bag—Realistic action and simplest set-up all in one bag. Use this bag anywhere! Nothing to hang - no holes to drill. Just fill base with sand and work out. Spring return system keeps up the action. This is the greatest bag you'll ever hit! #FHB $249.00. Add $5.00 to below shipping. Available in red only.

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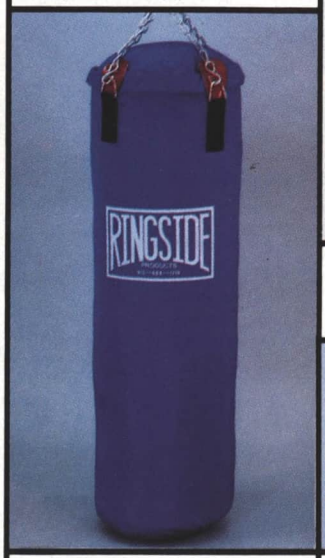

Colored Heavy Bags—Really brightens your gym! Filled bags must be prepaid. Leather - Black or Gold - #LHB (filled) $129, #LHB-1 (unfilled) $99; Canvas - Red, White, Blue or Gold - #CHB (filled) $75, #CHB-1 (unfilled) $36; Uppercut - White only - #UB (filled) $72, #UB-1 (unfilled) $36.

Embroidered Shirt—Polo style boxing shirts. #EPS, USA Boxing, White; #EPS-1, Ringside, Black or Red, #EPS-2, Golden Gloves, Black; #EPS-3, Golden Gloves, Lt. Blue. Available in S,M,L,XL,XXL. (XXL not available in EPS-1 Red). $20.00

Handwraps—Extra long (170") hook & loop closure. Red #HW $4.25. Mexican Style (180") slightly elastic hook & loop closure, gold, #MHW $4.25. Junior (120") shorter for smaller hands, hook & loop closure, blue, #JRHW $3.75.

No Foul Protector—Total protection for groin, kidneys, lower abdomen and hips. Also available in no-hip and Mexican style. #RPNF $45.00, #RPNF-1 (no hip) $38.00, RPNF-2 (Mexican Style) $38.00. Sizes S,M,L,XL.

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